

Report of the Fisheries Statistics Liaison Working Group (WGSTAL)

22–23 March 2012

Luxembourg



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International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer

H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44–46
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
Denmark
Telephone (+45) 33 38 67 00
Telefax (+45) 33 93 42 15
www.ices.dk
info@ices.dk

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1 22 March: Working Party on “Fishery Statistics”

On 22–23 March 2012, EuroStat hosted the Fisheries Statistics Working Group and the EuroStat/ICES Liaison Working Group. Some 50 delegates from the Member States, Iceland, Norway, Turkey, Croatia, in addition to representatives of DGMare and JRC participated in the meeting. Delegates from FAO and ICES were present as observers.

The items covered and conclusions reached by agenda item are as follows:

II. Legislative issues

A. Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Regulation EC) No. 762/2008 (Aquaculture statistics)

- EuroStat will continue the analysis of the results of data collection to elaborate on quality issues identified in the Report.
- EuroStat with DGMare will give a clearer indication of the uses the detailed data are being put to.
- EuroStat will seek more information on cost/benefits of the aquaculture data collection as required for the next EP Report (End 2014). The approach for collecting this information will be clarified.
- EuroStat with DGMare will provide more advice on the definitions of juveniles for reporting of hatchery and nursery production.
- EuroStat will continue to inform on progress with development of the CWP Handbook Chapter on Aquaculture Statistics and consult Member States as required.

B. Review of the catch statistics legislation – implications of cooperation with DGMare

- The Working Group was informed of the EuroStat's Strategic approach to fisheries statistics and in particular the rationalization of catch statistics with DGMare.

Members were asked to note that the review of Fisheries Statistics Regulations is an ongoing process.

- It was proposed that data collection by all three involved agencies (EuroStat, DGMare and the JRC) under Statistical legislation, Control Reporting and the Data Collection Framework (DCF) will be considered to look for eventual synergies and complementarity.
- It was noted that requirements for ICES early estimates might be met from the central EC collection taking into account the needs of ICES Working Groups for specific fish stocks.

III. Issues for discussion and decision

A. Data collection, compliance with existing rules, eDAMIS, SDMX, MDT, confidentiality

- EuroStat noted that compliance was generally good but agreed to liaise bilaterally with data suppliers where needed. This would enable an accurate picture to be provided to the CPSA meeting in May.

- EuroStat will map data flows to illustrate the data required and deadlines by asking countries to fill out a comprehensive questionnaire on this issue. It was noted that this will be useful for all stakeholders and in particular for EU candidate countries.

B. SDMX templates and validation procedures

- eDAMIS and SDMX for data collection were confirmed by EuroStat as being fully operational and continued cooperation in their use for data supply is requested.
- EuroStat requested comments on the Excel templates provided at:
<http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/agris/info/data/tools.htm>

C. Quality assessments

- EuroStat confirmed the new approach to quality assessments. This will involve EuroStat evaluating: what information has already been provided in methodological reports; any specific quality issues identified in data processing and what other information required for quality reporting is needed.
- EuroStat will liaise bilaterally with data suppliers on improvements to be made.

IV. Issues for information

A. Task Force Confidentiality

- EuroStat noted the progress been made in developing procedures for treating data for confidentiality. EuroStat will continue investigations into what further information is needed (if any) and how to practically apply the work of the Task Force.
- EuroStat will liaise with Slovenia bilaterally over the issue raised with regard to differences in reporting confidential data by the Statistical Office and Fisheries Department.

B. EU Market Observatory FISH/ 322

- EuroStat/DGMare to better inform the Working Group of progress with the Observatory. Unabridged version of recent Mare presentation to be uploaded to Circa.
- EuroStat with DGMare to advise on Observatory contact points for market information in Member States.
- EuroStat with DGMare to provide clearer definition of marketing concepts (especially observed prices) being used by the Observatory.

C. iMarine Project (with DG INFSO)

Presentation provided by DG INFSO on the part EC funded iMarine project on fisheries information infrastructure. Working Group members were requested to participate. More information is at: <http://www.i-marine.eu/pages/Home.aspx>

D. EuroStat's international commitments

- FAO/OECD and Mare A3 presented on the revision of the CWP handbook for fisheries statistics standards. Continued cooperation on strategies and standard setting was advised.
- EuroStat invited Member States fishing in Area 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea) to take a greater role in GFCM Subcommittee statistics and SIPAM aquaculture meetings. EuroStat noted the possibility of improved alignment of GFCM Task I reporting with other data collection, specifically the DCF.

2 23 March: Opening, agenda and minutes from 2011 meeting

Franco Zampogna opened and chaired the meeting. There were no amendments to the agenda and the minutes from previous meeting (27 May 2011) were approved without amendments.

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

Agenda was adopted without amendments.

2.2 Report on the cooperation ICES–EUROSTAT

The ICES representative made a presentation on recent developments in ICES concerning advisory work, status indicators and data collection issues.

Several participants expressed a wish to streamline the delivery of data to different institutions. The deadline of 31 January for preliminary data to ICES is a problem for a few countries, and it was discussed if this deadline could be moved to same dates as delivery of catch statistics for DGMare, namely end of February for regulated species and end of March for unregulated species. From ICES view point this should be possible except for the new species which ICES is asked to deliver advice for to EC; these species are unregulated and the Working Group to deal with these meet in March so reporting of preliminary data for these would need to be also end of February.

A confidentiality issue concerning catch statistics in the regional database, FishFrame, to be hosted and maintained in ICES was raised. ICES was asked to deal with this question of confidentiality in the policy paper to be developed for this database. It was decided when documentation is available for FishFrame to add this also to EuroStat circa website as well as the policy paper that is going to be developed.

2.3 SDMX–SEIF 2 developments

EuroStat reported on developments during the past year in the continuation of developing SDMX for improved sharing of fisheries data between international organizations in the SEIF project (SDMX for EuroStat, ICES and FAO). SDMX is now more extensively used for data submissions. There are still some problems which occur because codes change, countries change, area codes change, etc. Currently, there is a draft DSD for data exchange between EuroStat and ICES. A lot of work has gone into this process, initially to create a firm link between the different institutions and responsible data persons.

Some countries were very pleased with the greater detail in the data, which also extends back in time that is required with the aim of improving quality.

Some validation checks have been built into Edamis but it was emphasized that, as the quality task force two years ago concluded, the main validation of the data should happen at an early as possible stage and preferably by each country before sending.

2.4 Any other business

Several country representatives were positive towards the change of meeting dates from end of May/beginning of June to current dates in end of March. It was decided to stick to March dates also for the 2013 meeting. EuroStat will stress for NAFO and GFCM the importance of attending the meeting next year.

Working documents once available can be found at:
<http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/fishery/information>

Annex 1: List of participants

COUNTRY	DELEGATE NAME	ADMINISTRATION/ADDRESS/PHONE/E-MAIL
Belgique/België/Belgium	Eddy Tessens	Vlaamse Overheid Landbouw en Visserij, Vrijhavenstraat 5, 8400 Oostende tel: (+32) 59 431920 fax: (+32) 59 807693 e-mail: eddy.tessens@lv.vlaanderen.be
Bulgarija/Bulgaria	Plamena Yordanova-Kapralyakova	Ministry of Agriculture and Food National Agency for Fisheries and Aquacultures (NAFA) 17, Hristo Botev blvd 1606 Sofia tel.: (+359) 2 80 51 663 fax: (+359) 2 951 5718 e-mail: plamena.kapraliakova@iara.government.bg
Česká republika/Czech Republic	Marcela Macova	Czech Statistical Office Na padesatem 81 100 82 Prague 10 Phone: ++420 274 054 088 Fax: ++420 274 054 120 E-mail: marcela.macova@czso.cz
Danmark/Denmark	Sidsel Bie Meier	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries The Danish Agrifish Agency Nyropsgade 30 1780 Copenhagen V tel: +45 33 95 80 00 e-mail: sbme@naturerhverv.dk
Danmark/Denmark	Rasmus Nielsen	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries The Danish Agrifish Agency Nyropsgade 30 1780 Copenhagen V tel: +45 33 95 80 00 e-mail: ranie@naturerhverv.dk
Deutschland/Germany	Ralph Neidigk	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung Huabachstrasse 86 22765 Hamburg Tel: +49 40 306 860 572 E-mail: ralph.neidigk@ble.de
Deutschland/Germany	Matthias Walther	Statistisches Bundesamt Postfach 170377 53029 Bonn tel: +49 (0) 1888/644-8666 fax: +49 (0) 1888/644-8972 e-mail: matthias.walther@destatis.de

COUNTRY	DELEGATE NAME	ADMINISTRATION/ADDRESS/PHONE/E-MAIL
Eesti/Estonia	Olesja Gaidukova	Statistics Estonia Environment and Sustainable Development Statistics Service Endla 15 15174 Tallinn tel: (+372) 625 9167 e-mail: Olesja.gaidukova@stat.ee
Éire/Ireland	Anthony Keohane	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority Research Planning and Evaluation Unit Clonakilty Cork tel: +353 2388 Anthony.keohane@sfpa.ie
Elláda/Greece	Apologies sent	
España/Spain	Miguel Ángel Cordón	Servicio de Estadísticas de la Pesca Subdirección General de Estadística, Subsecretaría Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, y Medio Rural y Marino Paseo de la Infanta Isabel I, 28014 Madrid tel: 0034 91 347 5564 fax: 0034 91 347 5293 e-mail: Mardonm@mapya.es
France	Pierre Verdier	Bureau des Statistiques de la pêche et de l'aquaculture Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Direction des Pêches maritimes et de l'Aquaculture 3, Place de Fontenoy 75007 Paris tel: 0033 1 4955 82 81 fax: 0033 1 4955 8200 e-mail: pierre.verdier@agriculture.gouv.fr
Italia/Italy	Lucio Labanchi	IREPA ONLUS Via S. Leonardo Trav. Migliaro snc 84131 Salerno tel: +39 089 338 978 e-mail: labanchi@irepa.org
Kypros/Kibris/Cyprus		
Latvija/Latvia	Inese Mikelsons	Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia Division of Fishing Management and Fish Resources Fisheries Department 2, Republikas Laukums 1012 Riga tel: (+371) 670 275 25 e-mail: inese.mikelsone@zm.gov.lv

COUNTRY	DELEGATE NAME	ADMINISTRATION/ADDRESS/PHONE/E-MAIL
Lietuva/Lithuania	Tomas Dambrauskis	Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania J. Lelevelio G. 6 01102 Vilnius tel: +37 52398401 e-mail: tomasdambrauskis@zum.lt
Luxembourg		
Magyarország/Hungary		
Malta	Apologies sent	
Nederland/Netherlands	Renzo Ghianni	Statistics Netherlands Postbus 24500 2490 The Hague tel +31 70 337 41 94 e-mail: f.ghianni@cbs.nl
Österreich/Austria		
Polska/Poland	Bartłomiej Przesmycki	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Fisheries Department 30 Wspólna Street 00-930 Warsaw tel: +48 22 623 37 54 e-mail: b.przesmycki@minrol.gov.pl
Portugal	Vanda Cerejeira	Department for Information and Management of the Activity DGPA – General Directorate for Fisheries and Agriculture Av.a Brasília 1449-030 Lisboa tel: +351 21 303 fax: +351 21 303 59 33 e-mail: vcerejeira@dgpa.min-agricultura.pt
România/Romania	Nadia Mesteroiu	National Institute of Statistics Direction of Agricult. & Environment Stats. 16, Libertății Ave. RO – 70542 Bucharest (Sector 5) tel: +40 21 31 818 44 fax: +40 21 31 123 89 e-mail: nadia.mesteroiu@insse.ro
România/Romania	Constantin Stroe	National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture 35-37 Sos. Oltenitei, Sector 4 Bucharest tel: 0040 216344429 tel: 0040 21 6344430 fax: 0040 21 3326 132 e-mail: constantin.stroie@anpa.ro

COUNTRY	DELEGATE NAME	ADMINISTRATION/ADDRESS/PHONE/E-MAIL
Slovenija/Slovenia	Enisa Lojović-Hadžihasanovic	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia Vozarski pot 12 SI-1000 Ljubljana tel: (+386) 1 2340 760 fax: (+386) 1 2340 860 e-mail: enisa.lojovic-hadzihasanovic@gov.si
Slovensko/Slovakia	Apologies sent	
Suomi/Finland	Anssi Ahvonen	Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute P O Box 2 FIN-00791 Helsinki tel: (+358) 405 2222 19 fax: (+358) 20 575 1201 e-mail: anssi.ahvonen@rktl.fi
Sverige/Sweden	Jonas Ericson	Swedish Board of Fisheries Department of Fisheries Control Box 423 401 26 Göteborg tel: (+46) 31 743 6072 e-mail: jonas.ericson@havochvatten.se
United Kingdom	Stefan Reade	Marine Fisheries Agency Fisheries Statistics 3-8 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH tel: (+44) 207 270 8127 e-mail: stefan.reade@mfa.gsi.gov.uk
Iceland	Gudmundur Sigfinnsson	Hagstofa Íslands/Statistics Iceland Borgartúni 21a 150 Reykjavík e-mail: gudmundur.sigfinnsson@hagstofa.is
Norway	Trond Havelin	The Directorate of Fisheries PO Box 2009 Nordnes 5817 Bergen tel.: +47 974 3 2957 fax: +47 55 23 80 90 e-mail: trond.havelin@fiskeridir.no
Croatia	Renata Mimica	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development Directorate of Fishery Fleet Management Division Branch Office Rijeka Demetrova 3 51000 Rijeka tel/fax: +385 51 321 293 e-mail: mpsvg.ribarstvo.rijeka@ri.t-com.hr

COUNTRY	DELEGATE NAME	ADMINISTRATION/ADDRESS/PHONE/E-MAIL
Türkiye/Turkey	Tugba Gocem	Turkish Statistical Institute Agriculture and Environment Statistics Department Necatibey Caddeesi No 114 06100 Yüce-tepe, Ankara tel: +90 312 4100 226 e-mail: tugba.polatkan@tuik.gov.tr

Observers/other participants

DELEGATIONS	DELEGATE NAME	ADMINISTRATION/ADDRESS/PHONE/E-MAIL
FIES/FAO	Sachiko Tsuji	FAO–Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service Fishery and Aquaculture Department Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Roma tel: (+39) 06 57055318 fax: (+39) 06 57052476 e-mail: Sachiko.Tsuji@fao.org
ICES	Mette Bertelsen	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea H.C. Andersen Boulevard 44–46 1553 Copenhagen tel: +45 33386726 fax: +45 33934215 e-mail: mette@ices.dk

EUROPEAN COMMISSION			
DG/UNIT	NAME	DAY 1	DAY 2
ESTAT/E.1	Marcel Ernens		
ESTAT/E.1	Melina Antuofermo		
ESTAT/E.1	Matt Elliott		
ESTAT/E.1	Annabelle Jansen		
ESTAT/E.1	Franco Zampogna		
ESTAT/B.5	Daniel Suranyi		Day 2 only
INFSO/F.3	Jarkko Siren		
JRC/G.4	Fabrizio Natale		
MARE/B.2	Thierry Remy		
MARE/B.4	Angel Calvo Santos		

Annex 2: Terms of Reference

2011/2/ACOM23 The **Fishery Statistics Liaison Working Group** (WGSTAL), chaired by Franco Zampogna, EuroStat, will meet in Luxembourg 22–23 March 2012 and back-to-back with the EuroStat working group “Fisheries Statistics”, to:

- a) Review the cooperation between ICES and EuroStat and detailing the future procedures within the framework of the ICES/EuroStat Partnership Agreement;
- b) Review progress with the FIGIS/FIRMS project (for information);
- c) Discuss the sources, quality and use of data on non-reported landings and provide guidance on how best to estimate the magnitude of these landings;
- d) Review the report of the Meeting of the CWP and agree follow-up actions within the EuroStat/ICES partnership on fisheries statistics. Topics for the intersessional CWP July 2011 (for information);
- e) Review progress on the development of sustainability indicators.
- f) Inform on progress with the update of the Handbook on Fisheries Statistics Standards.
- g) Review progress on establishment of SDMX as a framework for fisheries statistics.

WGSTAL will report by 1 May 2012 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of the working group is essential to maintain contact with the national statistical focal points and to ensure a continuation in the quality of the fisheries statistical data not least for use by the fish stock assessment working groups.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN	Detailed, high quality fisheries statistics are essential to fish stock assessments. In particular to ToR on “non-reported landings” there should be a discussion based on the use of catch statistics made by the assessments groups. The scientists are using these data but the reliability of the official statistics is under dispute. There is documentation of non-reported landings of significant magnitude in some fisheries. This documentation is emerging from the processing industry and from the scientists. The discussion on the sustainability indicators will be based on the ICES/EEA/EuroStat work.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	The Secretariat shall prepare appropriate working papers in particular on progress with developing data checking software.
PARTICIPANTS:	WGSTAL will meet together with EuroStat’s Working Group “Fisheries Statistics”, where Fisheries Statisticians from national statistical offices meets. The meeting will include more than 50 participants. (ICES Member Countries, most EU and accession countries and several IGOs).
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	ICES has entered into a Partnership with EuroStat on developing and running fisheries statistics systems covering the Northeast Atlantic fisheries. ICES and EuroStat will be in the fringe and back-to-back with this meeting meet with EuroStat to review the Secretariat arrangements as stipulated in our agreement. EuroStat will make the practical arrangements for the WGSTAL meeting. ICES will meet with EuroStat in the margin of this meeting to review progress with the project on establishing software for data checking and to review the cooperation between the two secretariats.
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Closely linked to ACOM activities.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	