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Our Ref: H.4/LWC/RC/av 23 May 2023

Subject: Data call in support of WKSALMON3

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call to support the ICES Workshop WKBSalmon.

The benchmark meeting will start on the 19th June which is a few days before the official deadline for the data call. It was not possible to get this data call out any earlier and ICES would like to ask member countries to please submit the data as a soon as possible. The data call is a simple and in many cases all data has already been submitted previously and it will require little or no time. This data call creates an opportunity for member countries that would like to send in revised data for which they have prepared in advance.

This data call is under Council Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy and DCF Regulation ((EU) No 2017/1004 and Commission Decision 2016/1251/EU).

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

Sincerely,

Lotte Worsøe Clausen
Head of the Advice Department, ICES

CC: Jonathan.White@Marine.ie (WKBSalmon chair); DG-Mare, DCF; mas.sdrh.dpma@agriculture.gouv.fr, Sieto Verver, sfcano@dgrm.mm.gov.pt, sgprotec@mapa.es, jpoza@mapa.es

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Data Call Table of Contents

Data call: Data submission for ICES Benchmark Workshop on North Atlantic salmon stocks (WKBSALMON-2- 2023)

1. Scope of the Data call

ICES Member Countries with fisheries in the areas of interest are requested to provide catch biological data for salmon (*Salmo salar)* in the North Atlantic, FAO areas 21 and 27 (except Baltic Sea).

2. Rationale

The data requested will be used by the ICES Benchmark Workshop on North Atlantic salmon stocks (WKBSALMON 2023). The end product of the benchmark will be an agreed set of data and assessment methodology to be used in future update assessments and as basis for advice for the North Atlantic salmon stocks.

3. Legal framework

Generically, all the governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995[1] Fish Stocks agreement article 5 and 6 to incorporate fisheries impacts on other components of marine ecosystems and WSSD 2002 article 30 to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to oceans policy including fisheries.

For EU Member States this data call is under the DCF Regulation ((EC) No 2017/1004 and Commission Decision 2016/1251/EU), and in particular, Article 17(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004 which states "*..requests made by end-users of scientific data in order to serve as a basis for advice to fisheries management, Member States shall ensure that relevant detailed and aggregated data are updated and made available to the relevant end-users of scientific data within the deadlines set in the request,..*"

In addition, Article 15 of the NASCO Convention, with reference to obligations of Parties to provide to the Council the available catch statistics, other statistics, and any other available scientific information that the Council requires for the purposes of the Convention.

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection, as referred to in paragraph (9) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004.

4. Deadlines

ICES requests that the data be delivered by **23th June 2022**, to provide enough time for additional quality assurance prior to the workshop meeting. Missing the reporting deadline will compromise the data quality.

[1] United Nations (UN). 2011. Agreement related to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Available at: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?OpenElement

5. Data to report

Data should be provided annually from 1971 or as far back as possible. The benchmark will be based on a minimum time series between 1971-2021.
Details are provided below, with Appendix 1 giving regional definitions, Appendix 2 a Glossary of terms and in the accompanying DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx, formats, Instructions/Glossary and vocabularies/codes.

This Data Call represents an opportunity for National/Regional time-series data to be reviewed by submitters. **If historic data, already provided to ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), upon national review are considered most accurate there is no requirement to resubmit**. Notification to data.call@ices.dk of this is expected.

Data should be provided via email to data.call@ices.dk following the format outlined in the TABs of DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx.

5.1 Geographic and temporal scope

The geographical area covered by this benchmark ranges from FAO areas 21 and 27 with the exception of the Baltic Sea. North Atlantic salmon ICES stock definitions align with the NASCO Commission areas[2] (Appendix 1).

5.2 Data types

5.2.1 Catch and production data

Time-series data types for Atlantic salmon requested and outlined in DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx include:

- Numbers of fish released back alive from commercial and recreational fisheries
- Estimates for both reported and unreported catches
- Estimates of unreported rates (between 0 and 1) in the form of a mean value (best estimates) and uncertainty range (minimum and maximum bounds of uniform distribution);
- Estimates for harvest rates (between 0 and 1), in the form of a mean value and uncertainty range (minimum and maximum bounds of uniform distribution).

Noting that:
These are the ususal inputs provided annually for WGNAS, for input into the "Run-Reconstruction", which produces estimates of:

- estimates of returns
- homewater catches + their associated uncertainty

Estimates of returns and homewater catches with associated uncertainties are the required inputs to the proposed Life-Cycle model. If National/ Regional approaches, believed to better produce these exist, please provide these data also and appropriate references

[2] For a description of the Commission Areas See Figure (here) in page 3 of the sal.27.neac stock annex;

Data should be marked as provisional where necessary. Revisions to data from previous years should be reported and marked as final.

Noting that:
For the NAC area, data were provided historically for One-Sea-Winter (1SW) and Two-Sea-Winter (2SW) fish. New data requirements concern MSW(Multi-Sea-Winter) (comprising 2SW + older age classes) instead of only 2SW.
Data on Atlantic salmon catches by country and commission, as specified in the TAB "Catch and production data" of DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx.

5.2.2 Biological Characteristic

National/Regional data should be reported for:

- Eggs per female, by Sea age (1SW & MSW)
- Proportion female by sea age (1SW and MSW)
- Smolt age composition (proportions, ages 1 to 6; summing to 1.00)

TAB "Fecundity, Gender, Smolt age" of " of DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx

Noting that:
All biological characteristics should be provided as time series between 1971 and 2021 to capture any variation over time.

Where one single value is provided, it will be assumed that no variation with time should be incorporated and the single value will be applied across all years for that jurisdiction/ country

5.2.3 Conservation Limits

Where Regional or National Conservation Limits are available they should be reported: TAB "Conservation Limits" of DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx, in-line with the accompanying vocabulary codes. Where conservation limits are not provided by region/ country, they will be estimated in the "Run Reconstruction" following standard WGNAS segmented regression / (hocky-stick) methodology.

Conservation limits should be expressed in:

- Numbers of eggs, for the two sea age classes 1SW and MSW separately
  or
- Number of fish, for the two sea-age class 1SW and MSW separately.

CLs in number of fish should be easily deduced from the CL in number of eggs with the additional data on sex-ratio (proportion of females, for 1SW and MSW separately) and fecundity (eggs per female, 1SW and MSW separately).

Please include where possible citation/ reference for values to ensure the source of information can be traced.

6. Data submission

Data should only be entered once, i.e. each row of the database should represent unique data, i.e. no subtotals or aggregations of data.

Special terminology and codes used in this data call are described in the TAB "Instructions – Glossary" in DC_Annex_1_WKBSALMON.xlsx.

Files for data.call@ices.dk must have country reference, and should include stock and data type references. The files should be submitted in as few e-mails as possible.

7. Contact information

For support concerning any data call issues about the data call please contact the Advisory Department (Advice@ices.dk). For support concerning other data-submission issues, please contact: data.call@ices.dk.

Appendix 1 NASCO Commission / Stock complex/ Country / Region

Commission Area	Region	Country	Region
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Russia	Russia - Pechora River
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Russia	Russia - Archangel / Karelia
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Russia	Russia - Kola / White Sea
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Russia	Russia - Kola / Barents Sea
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Finland	Finland
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Iceland - north & east	Iceland - north & east
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Norway	Norway - south-west
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Norway	Norway - south-east
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Sweden	Sweden
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Denmark	Denmark
NEAC	Northern NEAC	Germany	Germany
NEAC	Southern NEAC	Iceland - south & west	Iceland - south & west
NEAC	Southern NEAC	UK	UK (Scotland - east)
NEAC	Southern NEAC	UK	UK (Scotland - west)
NEAC	Southern NEAC	UK	UK (N. Ireland – Loughs Agency area)
NEAC	Southern NEAC	UK	UK (N. Ireland - DAERA area)
NEAC	Southern NEAC	UK	UK (England & Wales)
NEAC	Southern NEAC	Ireland	Ireland
NEAC	Southern NEAC	France	France
NEAC	Southern NEAC	Portugal	Portugal
NEAC	Southern NEAC	Spain	Spain
NEAC	Southern NEAC	Netherlands	Netherlands
NEAC	Southern NEAC	Belgium	Belgium
WGC	West Greenland	Greenland	Greenland
NAC	North America	Canada	Labradour
NAC	North America	Canada	Newfoundland
NAC	North America	Canada	Quebec
NAC	North America	Canada	Gulf of St Lawrence
NAC	North America	Canada	Scotia Fundy
NAC	North America	US	US Main

Appendix 2

Glossary

1SW (*One-Sea-Winter*). Maiden adult salmon that has spent one winter at sea.

2SW (*Two-Sea-Winter*). Maiden adult salmon that has spent two winters at sea.

MSW (Multi-Sea-Winter). A MSW salmon is an adult salmon that has spent two or more winters at sea and may be a repeat spawner.

Catch-and-release fisheries Catch and release is a practice within recreational fishing intended as a technique of conservation. After capture, the fish are unhooked and returned to the water before experiencing serious exhaustion or injury.

NAC (*North American Commission*). The North American Atlantic Commission of NASCO or the North American Commission area of NASCO.

WGC (*West Greenland Commission*). The West Greenland Commission of NASCO or the West Greenland Commission area of NASCO.

NEAC (*North Eastern Atlantic Commission*). North-East Atlantic Commission of NASCO or the North-East Atlantic Commission area of NASCO.

NEAC – N (*North Eastern Atlantic Commission- northern area*). The northern portion of the North-East Atlantic Commission area of NASCO.

NEAC – S (*North Eastern Atlantic Commission – southern area*). The southern portion of the North-East Atlantic Commission area of NASCO.

NASCO (*North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation*). An international organisation, established by an inter-governmental convention in 1984. The objective of NASCO is to conserve, re-store, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon through international cooperation taking account of the best available scientific information.