**CONTRACT 1**

**Terms of Reference for ad-hoc contract: data preparation before STECF EWG 25-09**

Contact: OSIO Giacomo Chato (MARE D1)

1. **Background information**

In the context of discussions during STECF Plenary 24-03 and STECF Plenary 25-01 and 25-02, it was identified the need to give to EWG 25-09 more time to evaluate the stocks assessment models. On this basis it was agreed that data preparations for the stock assessments should be anticipated and finalized before the EWG.

The objective of this ad hoc contract is to updated existing stock assessment input files ready for the assessment runs with the notable inclusion of 2024 relevant data stemming from the 2025 Med & BS DCF Data call.

1. **Request to the STECF**

For the stock/s given in this ad hoc, the contractor is requested to update the stock assessment input files by:

ToR 1. To compile and provide the most updated information on stock identification and boundaries, length and age composition, growth, maturity, feeding, essential fish habitats including spawning grounds and seasonality as well as natural mortality.

ToR 2. To compile and provide complete sets of annual data on landings and discards as well as the standardized MEDITS Index for the longest time series available up to and including 2024, including length frequency distribution over time. To provide a complete and updated stock assessment input file in the format of those used in 2024.

**Duration & Timing:**

Number of days: 2.5

To be implemented by 4 September 2025

**Proposed expert for ad hoc contract X:**

Name of expert: XX

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