**National Coordination Meeting [IRELAND]**

**Data Collection Framework**

**BIM, Dun laoghaire, August 14th, 2018**

Minutes and Action Points

* **= Action**

Present:

**Marine Institute (MI):** Leonie O’Dowd (*LOD*) – National Correspondent, Gráinne Ni Chonchuir (*GNC*), Helen McCormick (*HMC*), Niamh Slattery (*NS*), Hans Gerritsen (*HG*)

**Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM):** (Irish Sea Fisheries Board): Herbie Dennis (*HD*), Emmet Jackson (*EJ*), Brian Burke (BB).

**European Commission (EU):** Blanca Garcia Alvarez (BGA)

1. Review of Action Points 2017
   * The meeting notes were reviewed; all action points were addressed.
2. National Programme 2017 Annual Report and data transmission
   * DCF Reports and Evaluations, including Annual Report, Cost Statement and STECF Comments
     + Irelands 2017 Annual Report was submitted on time. It was well received and its final overall evaluation was a ‘yes’. Some minor issues flagged for consideration when compiling next year’s AR submission, 2018 AR folder set up with relevant files in MI to address these issues for next year. No resubmission required.
     + Data transmission - 1 data transmission failure, missing data for u10 m segment. MS have responded to the Commission.

**★ Action point: BIM & MI to have meeting to address this issue (Discussed further below).**

BGA clarified that if the Commission do not reply back with request for further clarification to Member State (MS), it can be regarded as resolved. She will come back with more information. LOD suggested that a final official response from the Commission closing off data transmission failures would be useful for MS OP reporting. The Data Call indicator can be recorded as 100% unless otherwise informed.

* + - Cost Statement for 2017 DCF – Irelands cost statement was submitted to DAFM, expenditure was validated and approved in subsequent DAFM audit – no issues arose.

1. Work programme 2018

**Data issues \ update**

* + Biological data. 2018 WP is a rollover from 2017.   
    Changing landing patterns - certain biological sampling targets rely on species that so far have very little landings into Ireland in 2018 e.g. tuna. Staff sampling for these species will target all possible trips, even minor ones to try achieve targets but landings into Ireland may not be sufficient.   
      
    Maturity sampling – this is now mostly achieved through scientific surveys rather than catch sampling – needs be revised in 2019 WP.   
      
    Sampling at sea - Current 2018 targets achieved are causing concern. Q1 approx. 55-60% sampling targets achieved, Q2 approx. 35% sampling targets achieved, Q3 current levels at approx. 20% sampling targets achieved, but will hopefully rise to 55-60%. This is linked to a number of issues which have been raised with Industry. Some vessels are very cooperative but overreliance on the same vessels may have potential data bias issues. It has now been escalated to DAFM and the MI Board. Discussions at RCG showed some countries are having similar issues, others have gone down the legal enforcement route to secure sampling. There are concerns that in 2019 when Landing Obligation is fully in place further access to samples issues may arise.   
      
    Port Sampling - sampling is largely on target, some issues in access to east coast at times – but the rest of the country is ok.

4S Sampling - 4S sampling is fully implemented for demersal fisheries. For pelagic fisheries, methods are being reviewed, the MI are working with other member states to look at implementing 4 S pelagic sampling as part of regional sampling plans.

* + BIM- Economic:   
    *Fisheries* – fisheries survey 2016, including new variables, response was good. 2018 survey for 2017 data is scheduled to be launched in September.   
    A joint 2 month project with GMIT under table 5b, has developed new methodologies for raising the sample data and for quality control checking.

**★ Action point: EJ & BB to document new raising methodology, this will be uploaded to the Irish DCF website before 31st October 2018.**

BIM are planning meetings with Industry to demonstrate how the economic survey data industry supply imputed and is used, and how it may have implications for future funding. For the under 10m segments it is hoped to have data collection as an agenda point on a future NIFF meeting. Under new EMFF small scale fisheries will have a big input.

*Processing data* – collection of this data is no longer mandatory under the DCMAP, but Ireland will still collect it through the grant application forms and an employment survey

*Aquaculture* – data not collected through the grant application process, currently half collected by census, and other have by non-random sample survey. Success rate of census is good and for non-responses data can be imputed or estimated. Sample survey, mixed – some variables easily supplied, others more difficult to attain. Return rates are improving. The new data raising & quality methodologies developed for the fisheries economic sector will be amended to work for the aquaculture sector data. Environmental data now collected for the aquaculture sector as required under EUMAP. Some new information directly requested in surveys, others inferred or derived from other data sets. No issues with most shellfish sectors. For finfish sector chemical input can be derived from organic status.

*Sentinel Vessel Programme (SVP).* The 2017 SVP books are not all collected yet circa. 70% in so far.

**★ Action point: EJ to send the remaining 30% of books to MI before the end of Sept.**

**★ Action point: BIM (*EJ, JD, BB, VD*) and MI (*OT, DC, SC, MOC, YR*) to hold a 1 day workshop to include:**

Review the objective of the SVP programme going forward. BIM have now potentially other sources for the data they require traditionally collected via the SVP; Under 10m data for economic and transversal data; Effort data; New data streams; Revaluate the sampling structure, potential duplication of some data collection, if already included in VMS data; data opportunities with expanded observer programme. ETC.  
Organise meeting late September, to accommodate potential amendments to the Oct 31st WP submission. EJ to follow up with Terms of Reference and circulate.

* Recreational fisheries – A separate government organisation will be responsible for recreational fisheries data. Work has progressed in setting up a pilot study for recreational fisheries. The data collection will start in 2018, it will be the end of 2019 before there is a full year of data collected.
* Data Calls – Any issues can discussed/reviewed at the RCG, which has an agenda item on this.

**★ Action point: All to feedback any data call issues 2018 to LOD to bring forward to RCG.**

1. Feedback from DCF related groups and projects 2018
   * STECF Survey Review – A STECF subgroup met May 2018 and agreed a roadmap for the review of surveys mandatory under DCF (TABLE 10- EUMAP) and methodology to be used. A decision support tool was developed with binary decisions, based on advice provided for stocks. Evaluation is from the stock perspective, rather than survey perspective. To progress the evaluation two tables have been circulated to MS to complete, one looking at the surveys from a stock perspective and the other one to provide details on the surveys to be included in table 10. These will be coordinated and reviewed at the RCGs for a regional summary. It will then go to the Commission and to ICES for review. Link to published report: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ewg1804>

**★ Action points: LOD to circulate tables to be completed by survey experts.**

* + Governance: DCF expert group on data collection (former NC group)/FishPi2 WK1, data enduser needs – Update

DCF expert group- at February’s Expert meeting, a roadmap to implementation of annual report template was agreed between MS and the Commission. Commission described intention to develop preliminary automated data tools in MS Excel to aid in the validation of the annual report tables, focusing on a series of logical checks. The long term plan for these checks are to be incorporated into a database where the tables will be uploaded to. Official notes are available on:<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupMeeting&meetingId=3654>

FishPi2 WK1 – Set of case and pilot studies focused on developing regional coordination between MS. There are a number of different work packages, environmental, data quality, regional sampling etc. To move from National work-plans to Regional work-plans developing a collective quality assurance framework for DCF tasks for MS.

* + PGECON and related groups/Econ project.

PGECON – There is a proposal for PGECON to become a pan regional group, with the same legal status as the RCGs. The annual Liaison group review recommendations from RCGs and PGECON so technically this is the forum where PGECON recommendations can be implemented as member state legal requirements. The annual Liaison group meeting in October would be the most suitable forum to discuss the proposal. The National Co-ordination group agreed to support PGECONs proposal to have the same status as RCGs. The national coordination group also recommended that PGECON and the RCGs should review the pathway for economic components of national workplans to become part of regional/pan regional workplans. Do proposals have to go via the RCGs or can they go straight to STECF?

PGECON has two more workshops planned in the next year. The 1st in November will examine how the new socio economic data should be requested by the JRC. The worksop aims to agree and advice JRC on the reporting structure. The 2nd Workshop will concentrate on methodologies for capital value estimation. The date and venue is to be decided.

* RDB & Data related.   
  RDBES - The New Regional Database will include a requirement to document the process of how all data uploaded has been collected. Data in the previous database has not got this feature, without it the data is not statistically sound to use. The new RDBES will be an estimation tool as well as a database.

The aims of the RDBES are:

1) To ensure that data can be made available for the coordination of regional fisheries data sampling plans, in particular for the EU DC-MAP Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs),

2) To provide a regional estimation system such that statistical estimates of quantities of interest can be produced from sample data in order to deliver data for ICES stock assessments and advice,

3) To increase the data quality, documentation of data and ensuring of approved estimation methods are used,

4) To serve and facilitate the production of fisheries management advice and status reports,

5) To increase the awareness of fisheries data collected by the users of the RDBES and the overall usage of these data.

RDBES Timeline – ICES have 2 years of funding for the project. Now in 2nd year of funding for it. Significant progress has been made in agreeing and implementing structure to store the data and its metadata. Estimation methodologies are not developed yet, member states and WGCATCH are working on them. Under the current available funding it will not be possible to replace INTERCATCH or use it for DCF Reporting. Further funding will be required to incorporate those options, as well as ongoing funding to maintain and manage the database.

Other data issues – Dave Currie (DC) is working with SFPA and BIM on data sharing agreements and GDPR issues. Work ongoing.

Data Management and Data Accreditation in the MI, DC working with PGDATA and ICES to link the data quality system\development to integrate them. DC is chairing RDB steering group.

Data call review – at PGECON. Workshop in November to discuss new socio-economic variables. PGECON working with JRC with direct feedback from data calls.

1. National Work plan 2019 (All)
   * Update for 2019+:   
     Following on from the experience of completing this year’s annual report some sampling frames need to be renamed and some sampling numbers updated. HMcC to review comments from last year. Update from economic side to be included and recreational fisheries section needs to be updated.
   * Identification of any other issues and amendments:   
     Bycatch sampling description needs to be expanded, and SOP on Ireland’s DCMAP site updated.
   * Planned resubmission:  
     Given the number of amendments required it is hoped the NWP can be formally submitted and reviewed at STECF. A possible mechanism to do this would be along with the full resubmission, include a companion summary identifying the amendments made. The STECF meeting for Evaluation of Work Plans & Data Transmission failures will take place Nov 5th to 9th, so there is no time for pre-screening of NWPs. BGA will revert back with advice on how best to proceed.   
     **★ Action point: BGA will revert back with advice on how best to proceed with NWP submission.**
2. EMFF update:

BGA gave a brief update on the two Proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council EMFF 2021-2027 and Fisheries Control System

Commission's proposal for a new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2021-2027

* [*https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/questions-and-answers-new-european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-2021-2027\_en*](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/questions-and-answers-new-european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-2021-2027_en)
* [*https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2e307ce2-6e87-11e8-9483-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\_1&format=PDF*](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2e307ce2-6e87-11e8-9483-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

Commission's proposal to revise the fisheries control system

* [*https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control\_en*](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control_en)
* [*https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/com-2018-368\_en.pdf*](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/com-2018-368_en.pdf)

overall objective of the revision is

* to modernise, strengthen and simplify the EU fisheries control system and
* to increase the level playing field in fisheries controls
* Control system: use of new technologies
* data recording and transmission will have to be done electronically
* from catch registration, to tracking of vessels, control of fishing capacity and of the landing obligation, as well as for communication of fisheries data
* all catches should be accounted for and reported electronically, irrespective of the vessel's size and of the amount of fish caught
* certain vessels\* to be equipped with continuous recording electronic monitoring devices including Close Circuit Televisions (CCTV). *\*based on their level of discard risk*
* registration or licensing system for recreational fisheries
* same rules of traceability for fishery and aquaculture products

1. Queries to the Commission:

In addition to the queries on Ireland’s planned resubmission of its annual work plan, the following queries are addressed to the Commission for clarifications:

* Grants under direct Management-What are the next grant calls for direct management, how can suggestions be provided for funding calls under direct management?

https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=3563#caDetails

* DCF/EUMAP under the new EMFF- any plans for legal changes in the near future?

Nothing decided yet.

* 2018 Liaison meeting-An end-user meeting was discussed for one day before the Liaison meeting. Is this taking place?

The Liaison Meeting will be on 2nd of October. 1st October will be dedicated to end-users meeting. Both in Brussels