



Data Collection Framework

MEDITS Coordination Group Meeting

03-04 April 2024

DCF team, Unit C3
Scientific Advice & Data Collection

Data Collection Framework (DCF) focus

quality

- full sampling description in Annexes to work plans: user feedback welcome
- alignment with other quality assurance frameworks (Eurostat, ICES, GFCM)
- uptake work in 'Qualitrain' and follow up RDBFIS

regionalisation

- regional work plans: shared sampling plans and common protocols
- regional data bases (RDBES/DATRAS in ICES; RDBFIS in Med)

collect once

- data requests
- EMODnet

Regional Work Plans 2024 timeline

Revision by RCGs
based on STECF
comments
before 7 March 24

NC Approval of
Revision + final technical
development
May 24

Revised versions resubmitted
for STECF assessment
June 2024

MS integrate RWP 2025-2027
into NWP for submission
October 2024



Assessment
by STECF/COM
If NWPs include RWPs
Oct-Nov 24

National Work Plans

Resubmission expected from all MS for 2025-2027 NWPs to include:

- National commitments arising from RWPs
- Review and integration of test, pilot and complementary studies, listed in current NWPs
- Improvements to address data collection issues (as per DTMTs, previous STECF ARs and NWPs evaluation, identified end user needs)
- Data collection related to the Marine Action Plan
- (specific cases): SMEFFs; the outermost regions, linked to STECF roadmap; Fleet capacity indicators; Social indicators

RCG recommendations

| Recommendation 06. Surveys – Quality checks | |
|---|--|
| Med&BS_2023_R06 | Using the available tools for quality checks of data before being submitted to the Data Call |
| TOR 4 & TOR 7 | Cooperation with regional projects/ Scientific surveys |
| Justification | <p>In the last years, several tools have been developed in order to check the quality of the data collected before being submitted to any data call, such as RoME for MEDITS survey or the RDBQC R package for the information obtained in the monitoring of the commercial fleet. In addition to this, the Qualitrain project will be providing training on quality checks, which will be a very good opportunity for building capacity and improve the quality of Med and BS data. Regarding these training activities, it is recommended that the hands-on training session foreseen in 2024 is scheduled in April not to clash with a too busy period already in May.</p> <p>All MS should be well aware of these tools which may help to provide consistent information to all end-users through the different data calls. It is also recommended that MS go into the QualiTrain github (https://github.com/COISPA/RDBqc) and follow-up the process of the project regarding quality checks. Additionally, there is a purpose to organise a network of training experts and two reference people by MS should be appointed to this group and work complementarily to the network of experts on data optimisation.</p> |
| Follow-up actions needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS should use the available quality check tools to ensure the consistent information provided to end-users MS should appoint two experts to be part of the network organised by the Qualitrain project |
| Responsible persons for follow-up actions | MSs, QualiTrain consortium |
| Time frame/Deadline | Before submitting information to any Data Call |

| Recommendation 05. Surveys – Sampling season for scientific surveys | |
|---|---|
| Med&BS_2023_R05 | Establishing a limit period of time for which the seasonality of the scientific surveys (e.g. MEDITS and MEDIAS) would not affect the information obtained |
| TOR 7 | Scientific surveys |
| Justification | <p>Internationally coordinated scientific surveys include specific time frameworks in which their activities should be carried out, in order to reduce the variability of the data collected. For instance, according to the MEDITS handbook, the period of the MEDITS survey should be centered around June (from May to July) and keep the sampling period consistent among years. In relation to the MEDIAS handbook, the period of the MEDIAS survey should be in the summer and autumn season from June to October. June-July is the best period for MEDIAS survey for biological reasons, however depending on vessel availability the period could be extended to October.</p> <p>However, due to different reasons, the period can vary among GSAs and years and this could make that data obtained are not useful for the purposes of its collection. In this sense, it is requested to mark a limit of time, before and after the mentioned months, for which it is considered that the seasonality would not significantly affect the results of the information obtained.</p> |
| Follow-up actions needed | Establish a limit of time for which it is considered that the seasonality would not significantly affect the results. |
| Responsible persons for follow-up actions | Scientific survey Coordination Groups (e.g. MEDITS and MEDIAS), GFCM and STECF |
| Time frame/Deadline | Spring 2024 |

Survey timing

- Official time window for the implementation of the survey:
 - test Regional Work Plan (in months): 5,6,7
 - National WP (in months): HR = 5-7; CY = 6-7; FR = 5-6; GR = 6-9; IT = 5-8; MT = 6-9; SI = 8; ES = 4-8
- Importance in scientific advisory process
- STECF has highlighted that *‘the timing of the survey is important for the consistency of the data used in the assessments, and in several cases, is particularly important for the detection of 0 group fish. the importance of keeping the official window for consistency and detection of 0 group fish’*

RDB Med & BS

- MARE/2020/08 regional grant [RDBFIS](#) finished February 2023 – FWC Med & BS study [RDBFIS II](#) will provide a temporary 2-year hosting solution until 31 March 2025
- Data call launched on **10/11/2023** with a deadline of **31/05/2024**, asking – amongst others – for:
 - Med & BS data call, 2002-2022

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| MEDITS TA | <i>Data on the haul (MEDITS handbook, ANNEX X)</i> |
| MEDITS TB | <i>Catches by haul (MEDITS handbook, ANNEX XI)</i> |
| MEDITS TC | <i>Length and aggregated biological parameters (MEDITS handbook, ANNEX XII)</i> |
| MEDITS TE | <i>Biological parameters at individual level (MEDITS handbook, ANNEX XIII.A)</i> |
| MEDITS TL | <i>Litter recording (MEDITS handbook, ANNEX XIII.B)</i> |
| abundance | <i>Table Annual scientific survey abundance by length(ANNEX 1, Data call for the STECF EWGs on Mediterranean and Black Sea).</i> |
| biomass | <i>Annual scientific survey biomass by length</i> |
| abundance_biomass | <i>Annual scientific survey abundance and biomass by age and sex.</i> |

- **Share MEDITS 1994 data onwards with RDBFIS?**

*populate
the system with data*



AER

EU Fishing Fleet Socio-
Economic data call

Aggregated data

- Med&BS
- FDI
- AER
- GFCM/DCRF

MEDITS

TA, TB, TC

... end of April

Detailed biological & landings data

... end of May

MEDIAS database

- Acoustics
- Pelagic trawl
- CTDs

Validation scheme

Processing

Abundance

Biomass

Abundance-Biomass

Eggs & Larvae db

Updated versions

RoME

RoMEBS

BioIndex

AER database

- map_capacity
- map_fs
- map_fsfa0
- map_fssub
- map_ms
- map_msfa0
- map_recatch
- map_social

Validation scheme

Consistency checks

(JRC, RDBFIS)

Processing



Updated versions
RDBQc
RoME
RoMEBS

Compatibilities
RCG LP
adopt H10
CL, CE

*MEDITS survey: the embedded into RDBFIS **RoME** & **RoMEBS** R packages were updated; the **BioIndex** R package finished, the integration process is running (statistics on survey data, as biomass and density indices, length-frequency distributions, recruitment and spawner indices, mapping);*

*MEDIAS survey: The database structure was revised for the **acoustics** and **pelagic trawl** activity with the assistance of MEDIAS chair and experts; the integration into RDBFIS was implemented; the database structure, integration, visualization and processing routines will be presented during the MEDIAS annual meeting (10 April 2024); a datacall is foreseen;*



*Synergies between **QualiTrain** and RDBFIS have been established (any improvement of RDBQc, RoME & RoMEBS R packages will be incorporated into the RDBFIS);*

RDBFIS Bilateral Meetings

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>CYPRUS (18/12/23, 19/12/23, 5/3/2024) <u>Participants:</u> Ch. Charilaou, M. Ioannou, S. Kavadas, I. Dokos and M. Pantazi</p> |  <p>CROATIA (08/01/24 & 09/01/24 & 28/02/24) <u>Participants:</u> I. Vukov, S. Visnic, V. Cikes, T. Jelanic, Igor, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |
|  <p>SPAIN (15/01/24) <u>Participants:</u> J. P. Rosa, M. Conzalez Aguilar, S. F. Naranjo, J. Santo, J. M. Serna Quintero, P. L. Torres Cutillas, V. Shievka, J. Ubeda, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |  <p>SLOVENIA (15 & 16/01/24, 15/02/2024) <u>Participants:</u> P. Pasvic, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |
|  <p>ROMANIA (26/01/24) <u>Participants:</u> G. Tiganov, G. Alexandru, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |  <p>ITALY (22/01/24) <u>Participants:</u> P. Carrara, P. Didato, E. Arneri, A. Mannini, M. Zilioli, B. Marzocchi, L. Pappalardo, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |
|  <p>MALTA (08/02/24) <u>Participants:</u> J. Mifsud, K. Camilleri, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |  <p>GREECE (12/02/24) <u>Participants:</u> K. Katsafaros, M. Chatziefstathiou, T. Papadopoulou, C. Raftoudi, S. Kavadas and M. Pantazi</p> |
|  <p>FRANCE (Pending meeting)</p> |  <p>BULGARIA (16/02/24) <u>Participants:</u> S. Nicheva, K. Zhelev, I. Bikarska, F. Tserkiva, V. Raykov, E. Petrova-Pavlova and S. Kavadas</p> |

Background contribution (data preparation, RDBFIS stability and revisions):

Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR), Ioannis Chamodrakas (University of Athens), Walter Zupa (COISPA), Isabella Bitetto (COISPA), Ioannis Dokos (HCMR), Konstantinos Kalkavouras (HCMR)

User-friendly platform

Authorization issues

Deadline for submission of detailed biological data until the end of May

Extension was required of deadline for submission of FDI, GFCM, Med&BS and MEDITS data

Request to upload MEDITS data since 1994 (the data call requested data since 2002)

Request to share the DB structure

Request not to alter codification systems

The existing statistical system and the raising procedures could be available on the RCG and RDBFIS website (for transparency purposes)

Improvements were made on the system performance, validation rules, consistency check report and uploading process according to MS' comments

Communication issues between the Greek DCF National database and RDBFIS are investigated



CINEA/EMFAF/2021/3.1.2/03/SC04/SI2.881222

Specific Contract 2021/3.1.2/03/SC04

Hosting, maintenance and further development of the
Regional Database for the Mediterranean and Black Seas



<http://rdbfis.eu/>



Significant contribution by

Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Bulgaria (Simona Vasileva NICHEVA)

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Croatia (Ivana VUKOV)

Fisheries Research Unit, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Malta (Jurgen Mifsud)

Qualitrain

Quality checking of Mediterranean & Black Sea data and training for Member State experts

*First training took place
3 – 5 October 2023
(online)*

*Second physical
training between 15 – 19
April 2024 in Bari, Italy*

Objectives:

Technical work on quality checks and data checking in Med and Black Sea,
Preparation, coordination and organisation of technical trainings and information sessions.

Coordinator: Isabella Bitetto (COISPA)

Duration: 24 months

Start date: 14.12.2022

End date: 13.12.2024

*Data call to quality check the
remaining 78 stocks not
checked during STECF EWG
22-03, as well as additional
relevant stocks*

Studies on marine protected areas (MPAs)

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Studies | MAPAFISH-MED | SPILLOVER-MED |
| Main goal | Overview of MPAs and their associated fishing activities | Overview of how MPAs may benefit fisheries through spillover |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Characterize MPA features▪ Characterize fishing activities▪ Assess displacement in response to MPA implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Document spillover presence, magnitude and extent▪ Assess spillover drivers▪ Design and apply assessment |
| Timeframe | Q2 2024 | Q4 2025 |



Data requests

- European Environmental Agency on marine indicator
 - MEDITS data 1994-2021
 - Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain
 - DDL = 10 July 2023
- PhDs on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
 - MEDITS data 1994-2021
 - Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain
 - DDL = 15 October 2023
- PhD thesis University of Salento
 - MEDITS data 1996-2021
 - Italy
 - DDL = 20 October 2023
- European Horizon NECCTON project
 - MEDITS data 1994-2022
 - Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain
 - DDL = 22 February 2024

Data requests (cont')

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC MSFD) in Italy: publication
 - MEDITS, 1994-2021
 - Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Malta, France
 - DDL = 26 April 2024
- PhD project is to develop and test innovative stock assessment models for the small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea
 - MEDITS data 1994-2022
 - Italy, Croatia
 - DDL = 18 February 2024 *[ongoing]*
- JRC research on ecosystem and fisheries dynamics in the Mediterranean Sea
 - MEDITS data 1994-2022
 - Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain
 - DDL = 29 April 2024
- Research and monitoring activities by the University of Padova
 - MEDITS data 1994-2022
 - Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, France, Greece, Malta
 - DDL = 29 April 2024

Data requests (cont')

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC MSFD) in Italy: publication
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 - DDL = 29 April 2024

Document addressed to end users?

STECF PLEN 21-02

7.7 Question on the use of data following data checks carried out in EWG 21-02

COM request

DG MARE requested **STECF to comment on intended and possible uses of data sets in JRC databases**, in view of requests for data from other (than STECF and regular end users) users, like universities and project managers.

DG MARE requested STECF to comment on possible uses of tools used in EWG 21-02 for the awaited data issues resulting from discontinued data collection due to Covid-19 pandemic.

STECF comments & conclusions

STECF concludes that there is **increasing interest** in all sea basins **for uses** of scientific DCF data **beyond the 'usual' end users** dealing with stock assessment and management advice.

STECF concludes that because **fisheries data** (both commercial and survey data) **in the Med&BS area are currently less accessible** than the corresponding ones in the **ICES area**, this increasing interest adds a **significant workload** to all interested parties, and makes data sharing for the Med&BS data a longer and more cumbersome process which negatively affects all interested parties (data requesters, MS, DG MARE, JRC).

STECF stresses that the data collected under DCF calls are **funded through public money**; survey data, in particular, represent highly valuable information of generic scientific interest and without restrictions linked to commercial confidentiality. STECF fully supports that these scientific resources be made **publicly available** in the interests of all end-users and be freely used for further analyses provided the source is acknowledged and the obligations are met.

Move towards Public availability of MEDITS data?

What happens in ICES DATRAS?

- All the DATRAS (technical) documentation can be found here: [DATRAS \(ices.dk\)](https://ices.dk/datras)
- ICES overall data policy: [ICES Data Policy: Data policy for data managed by ICES \(figshare.com\)](https://figshare.com/articles/ICES_Data_Policy/Data_policy_for_data_managed_by_ICES/figshare.com)
 - which states that data users:
 - have sole responsibility for correct and appropriate data interpretation
 - Results, conclusions, and/or recommendations derived from the data do not imply endorsement from ICES
 - They are requested to inform ICES of any suspected problems in the data

While the data providers retain overall responsibility for data quality.
- All data that is not restricted (as DATRAS), is data under the creative commons license: [CC BY 4.0 Deed | Attribution 4.0 International | Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), where the data needs to be acknowledged and changes need to be notified

Move towards Public availability of MEDITS data?

Considerations and next steps:

- We need to contact also the relevant actors for SOLEMON and Black Sea surveys data sets, as under the Me & BS data call, these data are under the same format and same file
- One possibility would be to have a 3-year restriction, as per legal framework, i.e. not to disclose the last 3 years of data.
- To discuss at the RCG Med & BS meeting 2024

2024 meetings (1)

EWG 24-02: Methodologies for Mediterranean stock assessments and the estimation of reference points

Monday 8 April 2024, 09:30 - Friday 12 April 2024, 16:00 (UTC)
Ispra, Italy

EWG 24-03: Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet I

Monday 8 April 2024, 09:30 - Friday 12 April 2024, 16:30 (UTC)
Online only

2024 Liaison Meeting, National Correspondents Meeting 24-26 September 2024 Brussels

EWG 24-11: Evaluation of Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI) for EU Fleets

Monday 9 September 2024, 09:03 - Friday 13 September 2024, 16:30 (UTC)
Ispra, Italy



National Correspondents Meeting 7 March 2024 online

EWG 24-07: Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet II

Monday 10 June 2024, 09:03 - Friday 14 June 2024, 16:30 (UTC)
Ispra, Italy

EWG 24-08: Evaluation of the Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission issues

Monday 24 June 2024, 09:03 - Friday 28 June 2024, 16:30 (UTC)
Online only

EWG 24-15: Evaluation of Work Plans for data collection and data transmission issues

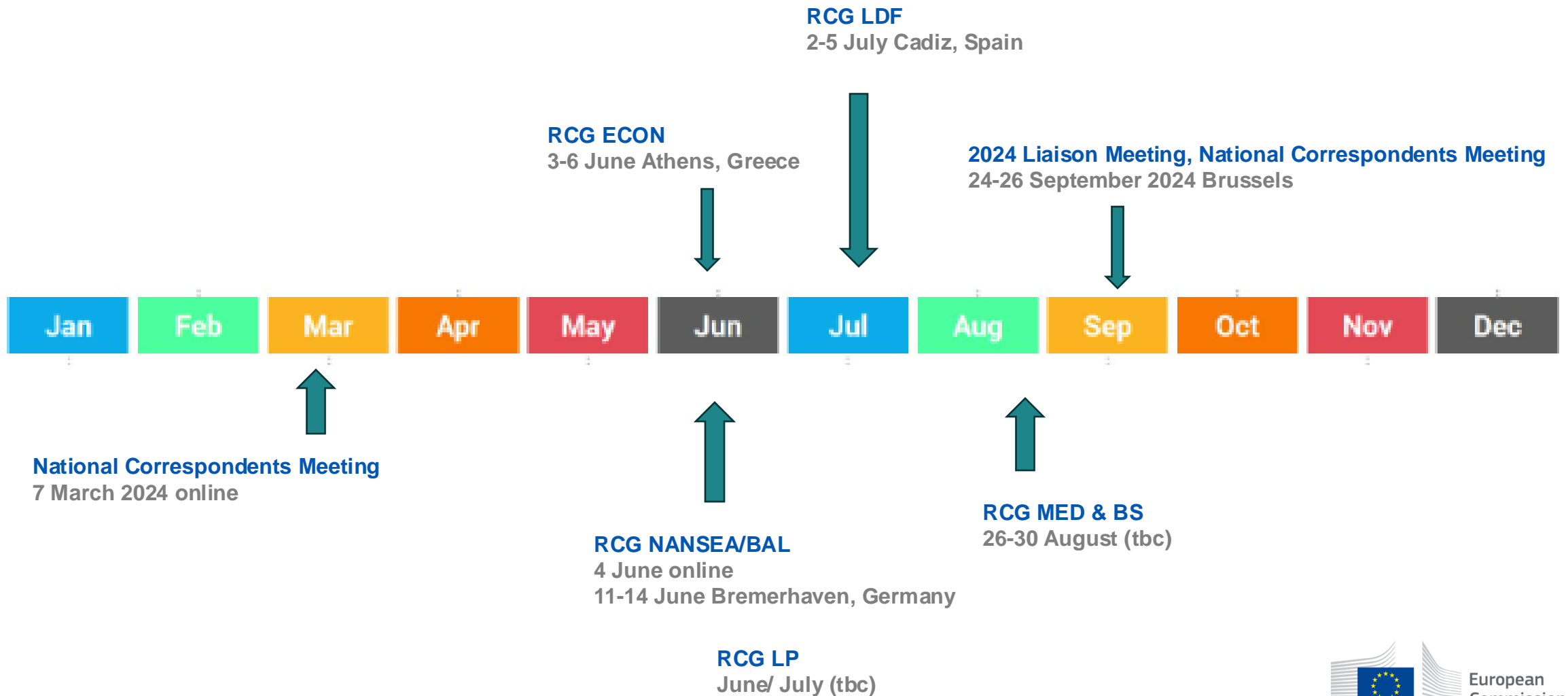
Monday 28 October 2024, 09:03 - Friday 1 November 2024, 16:30 (UTC)

Expert meetings

EWG 24-14: Economic Report on the EU aquaculture

Monday 21 October 2024, 09:03 - Friday 25 October 2024, 16:30 (UTC)
Online only

2024 meetings (2)



Other DCF updates

- New DCF website and STECF website operational:
stecf.ec.europa.eu and dcf.ec.europa.eu.
Some old libraries either interlinked or to be moved gradually.

International bottom trawl survey in the Black Sea (iBotS)

- Linked to the GFCM 2030 strategy
- Coordinated by the BlackSea4Fish Project
- MEDITS instruction manual adapted to the Black Sea conditions
- Four GFCM Black Sea priority species (turbot, piked dogfish, red mullet, and whiting)
- Abundance and distribution of other fish, elasmobranch and invertebrate species
- While a significant part of the MEDITS protocol is maintained, sampling gear, gear operation, target species, sampling stations and temporal alignment of the surveys have been adjusted

Thank you



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