



Grant Agreement No: MARE/2020/08 - SI2.839444

Development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Seas

MARE/2020/08 - SI2.839444

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL DATABASE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEAS (Med&BS RDBFIS)**

This project has financed under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

16th MEDIAS Coordination Meeting

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Hybrid meeting

April 18-20 2023



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Med&BS RDBFIS: Overview

The regional grant MARE/2020/08 **Med&BS RDBFIS** was launched by DG MARE on 1st January 2021 materialized discussions of over 10 years at regional level;

The action aimed at addressing the legal requirement of the DCF Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 on setting up regional databases purposing to facilitate Member States' response to data calls and reduce the burden of multiple data submissions (for data calls) under different formats;

The project was completed on February 2023 (having received a 2 month extension from the EC), the final report was submitted to DGMARE for evaluation;



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Med&BS RDBFIS: overview

On the creation of RDBFIS: cooperation and communication with



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean



Regional Coordination Group
Mediterranean and Black Sea



Regional Coordination Group
Large Pelagics



ICES
CIEM



Med&BS
RDBFIS



Med&BS MS

RDB SC

STECF



FISHN'CO



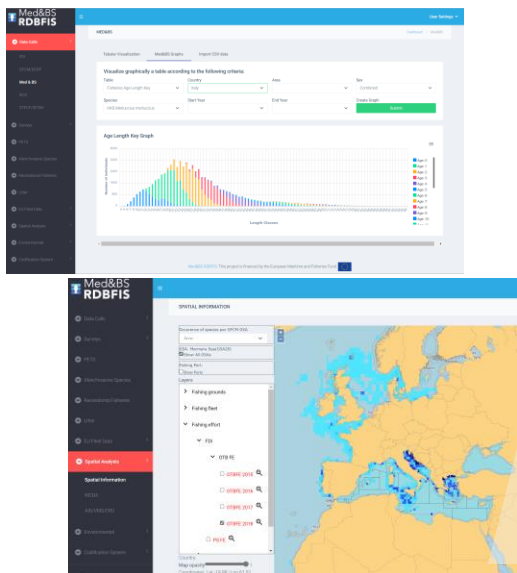
RCG's Secretariat
SECWEB

Med&BS RDBFIS: Overview

RDBFIS: a web-based integrated fisheries information system for the Med&BS

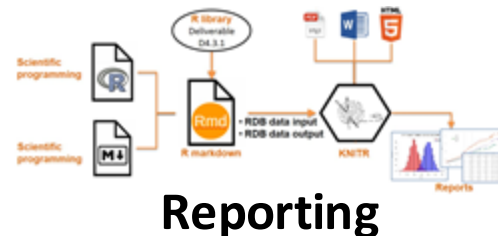
CHARACTERISTICS

- Centralize RDB for DCF
- A power full tool for Med&BS RCG, MS, end users
- A security subsystem ensures data access and protection
- Common quality checks, processing, reporting
- Surveys are included
- Spatial information integration



Med&BS RDBFIS: Overview

components



Processing

Med&BS RDBFIS: Overview

Available data sets



- FDI datacall
- RCG datacall (detailed biological data)
- Med&BS datacall
- GFCM/DCRF datacall
- Species lists, coding system
- EU fleet, Fishing ports
- Spatial data
- Environmental data
- MEDITS data

Med&BS RDBFIS: Overview

Imported data sets to RDBFIS

- Through datacall: Med&BS, FDI, GFCM/DCRF, RCG
- EU fleet register
- EU CIRCABC (port location by Master Data Register)
- WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species)
- ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System)
- MEDITS data (GRC), MEDITS TM Species
- EMODNET (bathymetry)
- Spatial data from several sources of information



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Med&BS RDBFIS - II

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

Under FRAMEWORK CONTRACT – EASME/EMFF/2020/OP/0021

Duration: 24months

Project Start: April 1st 2023

*.. announce that **the offer aligns with the requested services** as stated in the terms of reference and it is overall a very good and ambitious proposal. It follows up from the regional grant RDBFIS, so business continuity is ensured.*

Med&BS RDBFIS - II

Further development:

*A further improvement is concerning the consistency of data quality checks. Specifically, particular attention will be paid to enhancement of the quality checks considering the **RDBES formats**, focusing on the hierarchies applied in the Mediterranean for the biological samplings;*

*Concerning the **MEDITS survey data**, another improvement to be included in the RDBFIS is represented by the embedding of an upgraded **BioIndex R** package that provides relevant statistics on survey data, as biomass and density indices by year, length-frequency distributions, recruitment/spawner indices and maps;*

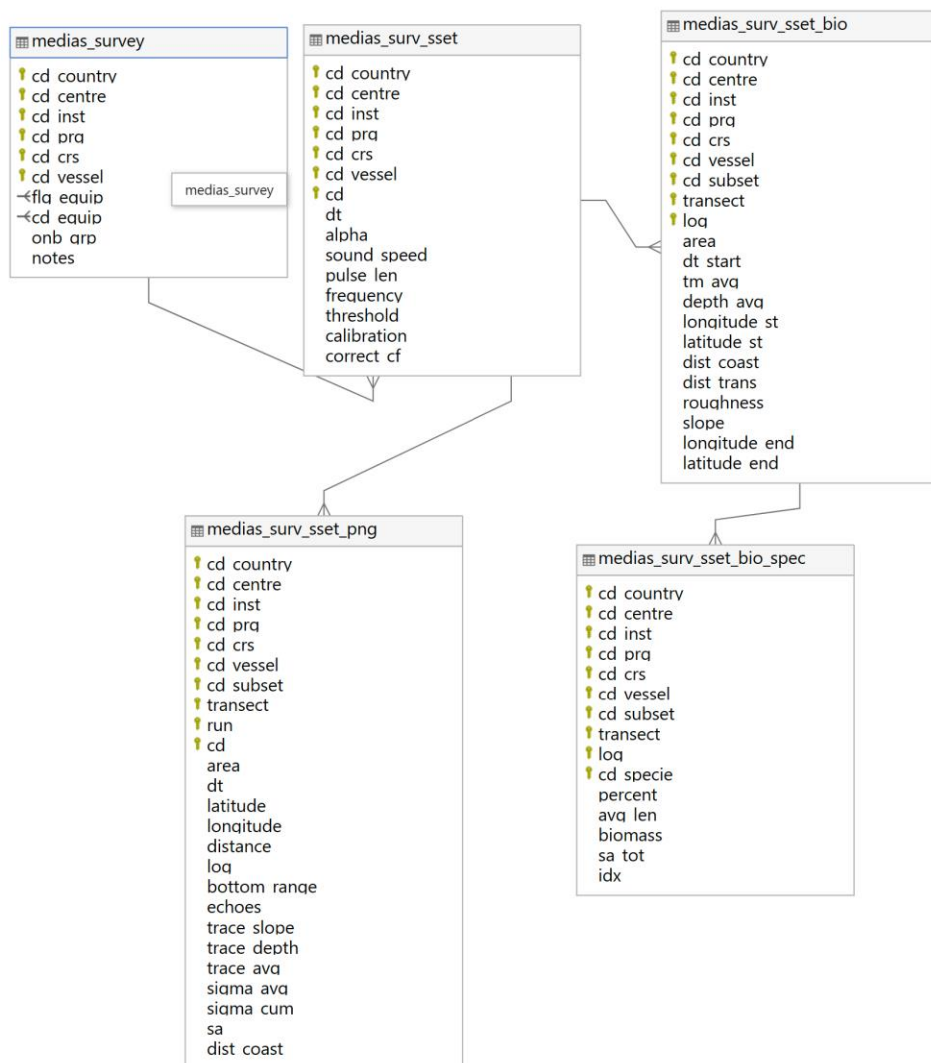
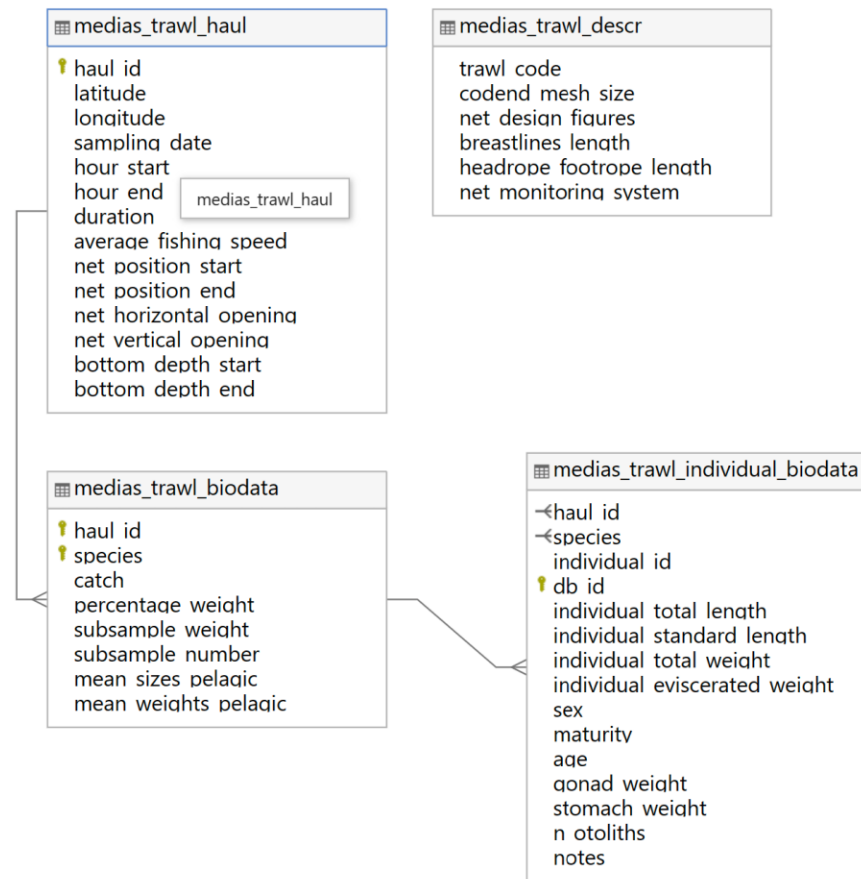
*The **integration of MEDIAS survey into RDBFIS** will be implemented with the assistance of MEDIAS chair and scientists;*

*Integration of **fleet economic data**;*

Med&BS RDBFIS - II

Further development:

- i. **Data elaboration routines as well as data entry forms** for stomach content, PETS, alien species, Eggs&Larvae and recreational fisheries is foreseen to be developed;
- ii. **Fleet analysis:** Considering that: (i) several components of the application will have open access and (ii) the usefulness of disseminating information about Europe's commercial fishing fleet, a dynamic tool will be developed portraying the evolution of fleet dynamics in Europe;
- iii. **FDI spatial checks:** R routines already implemented in JRC supporting the FDI EWG works, will be incorporated into RDBFIS. Discussions have started with the R routines developers and a meeting is scheduled to discuss technical integration issues in RDBFIS;
- iv. **Work Plan and Annual Reports:** An effort will be made to enable Member States to send the Work Plan and Annual Reports online through a web based form. Syntax and consistency checks are foreseen to be implemented;

MEDIAS **MEDIAS***Continue with data structure presentation ...*



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Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group

The main aim of the Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group (WGBIFS) is the planning, coordination, and implementation of demersal trawl surveys and hydroacoustic surveys in the Baltic Sea.

It compiles results from, coordinates and plans the schedule for the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS), the Baltic Acoustic Spring Survey (BASS), and the Baltic International trawl Surveys (BITS) in the 1st and 4th quarter on an annual basis.

The group provides the herring, sprat and cod abundance indices for the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS) to use as tuning fleets. The common survey manuals are also updated according to decisions made during the meeting.

A large part of WGBFAS' work is on additional terms of reference based on recommendations of other EU and ICES expert groups.

WGBIFS comprises experts representing nine countries from around the Baltic Sea.

Continue with data structure presentation ...



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Report of the Workshop on Implementation and Use in IBAS of a New Common Acoustic Database (WKBIFS-ACOU)

The WKBIFS-ACOU workshop is part of the Horizon 2020 (H2020) project AtlantOS task 2.4. ICES data portal is now operational allowing for uploading acoustic and biotic data from acoustic surveys into the central acoustic database. Validation is done using XML schema and schematron screening rules on top. Likewise, the acoustic and biotic data within the database can be downloaded in various formats feeding into the assessment software StoX and EchoR. The current national computerization methods follow a very robust abundance estimation protocol which in addition allows diverse implementation nationally by combining the national survey estimates by ICES statistical rectangles within subdivisions into the final annual tuning indices. However, the current computerization method is not transparent and also difficult to reproduce centrally even having a central acoustic database.

Continue with data structure presentation ...



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Acoustic trawl surveys

Processed Acoustic and Biotic collected on acoustic trawl surveys in the Northeast Atlantic and Baltic seas

The database hosts information on fisheries observations collected from various pelagic surveys coordinated by ICES and falls into two categories: acoustic data, derived from readings taken on vessels, and those obtained through trawls in the open ocean – pelagic – zone. Combined, this provides key biological data on fish stocks such as herring, mackerel and blue whiting as well as krill and other prey species.

Continue with data structure presentation ...



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ICES data policy

By maximizing the availability of data to the community at large, ICES promotes the use of these data, thereby ensuring that their maximum value can be realized and thus contribute to an increased understanding of the marine environment.

ICES Data policy was revised and approved by ICES Council in October 2021, this replaces all previous versions.

Key points about this policy

All public data are under the Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0) licence

Is intended to facilitate the production of science based advice and status reports, and serve the scientific community

Applies to data managed by ICES

All data products are by default publicly available, including those derived from restricted data

Exclusions to unrestricted public access:

Commercial catch data from the Regional Fisheries Database (RDB-FishFrame) and InterCatch, which have independent data licensing.

VMS and Logbook data, which are governed by the conditions under the specific data call.

Biodiversity data (birds, seals and cetaceans) where data may have been provided by non-governmental organisations.

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) data portal, where location information is sensitive.

Continue with data structure presentation ...



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<https://www.seadatanet.org/Metadata/CSR-Cruises>

CRUISE SUMMARY REPORTS (CSR)

Cruise Summary Reports (CSR = former ROSCOPs) are the usual means for reporting on cruises or field experiments at sea. Traditionally, it is the Chief Scientist's obligation to submit a CSR to his/her National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC) not later than two weeks after the cruise. This provides a first level inventory of measurements and samples collected at sea. Currently, the Cruise Summary Reports directory covers cruises from 1873 till today from more than 1.500 research vessels: a total of nearly 65.000 cruises, in all European waters and global oceans. This also includes historic CSRs from European countries, that have been loaded from the ICES database from 1960 onwards.

IMPORTANT link

ICES survey protocol

https://ices-library.figshare.com/search?q=%3Atitle%3A%20%22ICES%20survey%20protocol%22%20OR%20%3Atitle%3A%20SI&sortBy=publication_date&sortType=desc

Continue with data structure presentation ...



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We thank you for your attention

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Med&BS RDBFIS

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<https://medbsrdb.eu/>

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Under the umbrella of the MARE/2020/08 "Strengthening regional cooperation in the field of data collection", the construction of a Regional Database (RDB) for the Mediterranean and Black Seas was funded (https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/call-proposals-mare202008-strengthening-regional-cooperation-area-fisheries-data-collection_en).

A web-based integrated fisheries information system will be developed with the aim to: (i) enable reliable scientific advices and support the work of the RCGs, (ii) facilitate the work of the EU Member States, (iii) allow end users to calculate statistical estimates of data tailored to their needs and help to streamline and ease the reporting of Member States on the EU data collection. The corresponding Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs), the Commission, the Member States and the end-users (STECF, GFCM, ICCAT) will cooperate on the creation of the Med&BS RDBFIS. The role of the existing Member States' dedicated Steering Committee on the RDB will be crucial.

The RDB will cover the fisheries of the defined region(s) and will be focused on addressing the fishery management needs related to the European Union Common Fisheries Policy. It is considered as an important tool to enable regional overviews of fishing activities, to optimize data collection and facilitate task/cost-sharing and sampling at the regional level.

Partners: Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR, coordinator), COISPA Tecnologia & Ricerca (COISPA), Consorzio per il Centro Interuniversitario di Biologia Marina ed Ecologia Applicata "Guido Bacci" (CIBM), Istituto per il Rilevamento Elettromagnetico dell'Ambiente (CNR-IREA), Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer), Nisea società cooperative (NISEA)

Duration: 24 months, from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2022