



Stakeholder Meeting on the revision of the Data Collection Regulation

Brussels, 16 January 2014

Points to be discussed in each subgroup

Subgroup discussion on topics A, B and C – morning session 10:30–12:30

A. Scope of the Data Collection Framework

Landing obligation, data on aquaculture, interactions with other European legislations

Landings obligation: do you agree with the proposal to include a provision in the revised DCF according to which MS should sample all catches, including those that are discarded, without specifying the method to do this (e.g. at sea or in harbours, using CCTV or observers) in other words, to no longer specify explicitly in the DCF regulation that MS should carry out observer at seas programmes?

Data on aquaculture:

Do you agree with the three-step approach identified in the non-paper, to identifying what data on sustainable aquaculture should be included in the future DCF Multiannual Programme (develop indicators, assess existing available data, decide how to proceed with collection in most cost-efficient manner).

Interactions with other European legislations:

Do you agree with the principle that the DCF should set the overarching rules on availability irrespective of what rules apply for the collection of data under other rules? Do you agree that concerning the process of data collection, the DCF should only specify the data needed by end-users, and that where such data are covered by several regulations, it is up to MS to organize collection and provision in the most efficient manner, to avoid duplication?

Regarding data on the processing industry, do you agree with the proposal that certain data continue to be collected by MS under the Eurostat SBS regulation, whilst additional data collection may be collected under the DCF?

B. Assessing impact on ecosystems

Impact of fisheries on ecosystem, link with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, by-catch of non-target species

Do you agree that there is a need for improved availability and harmonization of data on the impact of fisheries on ecosystems, such as on by-catch of non-target species?

Do you agree that the DCF should cover data to be made available, and not products of these data such as indicators?

Do you agree with the principle that MS should collect data needed to contribute to calculate some of the MSFD indicators when they are directly connected to fisheries?

Regarding by-catch of non-target species, do you agree that the revised DCF Multiannual Programme should contain obligations for MS to provide data on all species by-caught in fisheries which are protected under some other EU legislation, or for which there are monitoring/reporting obligations under some other EU legislation? If you disagree with the latter approach, what should be the criteria for selection of species for which MS should collect data on by-catch?

In case data are not needed on an annual basis, do you agree that they could be obtained by a unique pilot study?

Do you agree that data should be collected on the effect of mitigation measures to avoid incidental by-catches?

C. Improving data quality

Statistically-sound sampling, quality checking procedures

Do you agree that in the revised DCF Regulation, the obligation for MS' to meet quality targets (currently CV values) be replaced by an obligation for Member States to follow best practice methodologies, to document their procedures and make this information available to end users? In addition, should minimum sampling levels be included in the EU Multiannual Programme?

Should there be any further quality control assurances by Member States?

Do you agree that STECF should continue to be tasked with evaluating the quality of Member States' data at national level, and that in addition, Regional Coordination Groups be tasked with evaluating the quality of data at a regional level (i.e. in the form in which end-users will be using the data)?

Subgroup discussion on topics D, E and F – afternoon session 13:30-15:30

D. Simplification and rationalization

What to delete? Less frequent? Automatisation and multipurposes

Which are, in your opinion, the obligations in the current DCF which result in the greatest complexity and workload (please list 3-5 elements).

Do you agree with the principle that the quality or frequency to be achieved for certain data sets can vary based on the importance of the end use of the date (e.g. the conservation or economic importance of the stock)?

Do you agree with the removal of obligations for Member States to collect certain sets of variables from the revised EU Multiannual Programme, and instead, for these to be collected on a voluntary basis, based on recommendations by Regional Coordination Groups? If so, for which categories of data to you consider that this approach could be appropriate?

Do you agree that criteria for inclusion/deletion of variables from the EU Multiannual Programme should be specified in the revised DCF Regulation?

E. Improving availability of data

From a push to pull system, Confidentiality and data protection issues, Scenarios for IT interoperability,

Do you agree that there is a need to improve availability for scientific purposes of certain types of data covered by the Control Regulation such as on catches, efforts, landings, VMS, logbook data?

Do you agree that there should be a balance between the public interest for availability of data for and the individual interest for protecting data? If so where should that balance be situated?

Do you think personal data are sufficiently protected under the current rules (national or European)? What type of further measures would be required: legal measures or other measures such as allowing access only on the condition of a confidentiality statement to be signed by scientists?

Do you agree that interoperability of IT systems, enabling data platforms and data highways could lead to a multi-purpose use of data, could avoid duplications and create synergies of data use between different areas?

F. Strengthening regional cooperation

End-user oriented data collection

Do you agree that the role of regions should be strengthened in a) planning how data collection should be carried out in the regions (i.e. allocating tasks between MS in a region) b) implementing data collection c) evaluating how well data collection was carried out in that region (e.g. assessing whether the quality of data at regional level is satisfactory/meets end user needs).

Do you think regional coordination groups (i.e. MS in a region together with end users), should also be responsible for deciding which data should be collected or not? If so, should the region decide on a) which variables to collect b) which frequency of collection c) quality targets (eg sample sizes)?

Would you be in favour of removing obligations from the EU multiannual programme regarding certain categories of data to be collected, and leave this to regional coordination meetings to decide. Which benefits and risks do you identify with this approach and do you consider the benefits would outweigh the risks?