

## EU request on quality assurance for data collected under the DCF, with the inclusion of DCF surveys and missing variables into DATRAS

### Summary

Two workshops were conducted in 2018 to incorporate new trawl surveys, missing data submissions, and missing data products into ICES online Database on Trawl Surveys (DATRAS; <http://datras.ices.dk>). This open access database currently contains data from seventeen surveys, most of them internationally coordinated by one of the three ICES trawl survey working groups: the Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group (WGBIFS), International Bottom Trawl Survey Working Group (IBTSWG), and Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys (WGBEAM). The DATRAS portal offers online services for the uploading and downloading of survey data in a standardized format and provides data quality checks when data are uploaded. ICES fish stock assessment working groups rely on data products from DATRAS, such as CPUE per haul by length and by age, age-length keys (ALK), etc. Most of these data products are derived from data collected under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF), which requires quality-assured survey data submissions and outputs.

The main goals of the workshops were to incorporate new trawl surveys, missing time-series for exchange data, and missing data products into DATRAS, as well as to resolve data submission queries and issues from data submitters. In addition, it was proposed to include additional quality check procedures at different stages in the process (the uploading/re-uploading stage, resolving errors in existing exchange data, and identifying missing information). The workshops facilitated the inclusion of new surveys into DATRAS (i.e. DYFS, IE-IAMS), and the improvement of the reporting format, data series, and data products for existing DATRAS surveys (i.e. SP-NORTH, PT-IBTS, FR-ORHAGO, BEL-BTS, UK-BTS, DYFS, IE-IGFS, NS-IBTS). Furthermore, the workshop facilitated discussions about future calculation methods for length-based and age-based data products.

### Request

#### Background

*Quality assurance of advice starts by quality assuring the input data to stock assessment. There are several stages and tasks underlying this; first steps being to assure that all data are held in databases with transparent and quality assured outputs (e.g. survey indices, raised catch data) and even before this that the data are produced in a quality assured way.*

ICES was requested by EU to engage in 3 steps of the quality assurance of data collected under the DCF: a) development of the SmartDots platform for age-data, b) specifications of the RDBES for commercial catch sampling data, and c) including DCF-funded fisheries independent surveys/variables not yet held in DATRAS into the DATRAS database. All three developments would enable ICES to reduce uncertainty/error, but also more precisely quantify errors in input to assessments.

The present Technical Service refers specifically to step c): *Inclusion of DCF surveys and missing variables into DATRAS.*

*In the light of the most recent errors in input data to the assessments from surveys which at present are not part of the DATRAS system, or where not all required variables are provided, ICES is requested to incorporate these surveys in DATRAS. This would increase options for quality control and transparency/traceability of assessment outcomes.*

### Elaboration and basis of the response

The Workshop on DATRAS surveys in the Greater North Sea and Celtic Sea (WKDATR-NSCS) met in Copenhagen 11–13 June 2018, chaired by Vaishav Soni, ICES Secretariat, and David Stokes, Marine Institute, Ireland. The meeting had eight attendees and one online participant, representing four countries (Norway, Belgium, Ireland, and UK[England]).

The Workshop on DATRAS surveys in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (WKDATR-BoB) met in Copenhagen 4–5 July 2018, chaired by Vaishav Soni, ICES Secretariat, and Corina Chaves, IPMA, Portugal. The meeting had five attendees and one online participant, representing three countries (France, Portugal, and Spain).

The reports from these two meetings are annexed to this Technical Service.

## Annexes

ICES. 2018. Report of the Workshop on DATRAS surveys in Greater North Sea and Celtic Sea (WKDATR-NSCS). 11–13 June 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2018/EOSG:44. 24 pp.

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/PublicationReports/ExpertGroupReport/WKDATR-NSCSReport2018.pdf>

ICES. 2018. Report of the Workshop on DATRAS surveys in Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (WKDATR-BoB). 4–5 July 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2018/EOSG:43. 17 pp.

[http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication Reports/Expert Group Report/ WKDATR-BoB\\_Report2018.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication Reports/Expert Group Report/ WKDATR-BoB_Report2018.pdf)