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15 October 2021

Subject: Data call: Data submission for ICES selected stocks under WKELASMO 2022.

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for the WKELASMO 2022 benchmark. The data will be used by the ICES Benchmark Workshop for selected elasmobranch stocks (WKELASMO 2022) and in the production of ICES Advice.

The data call is also available from the ICES website: <https://www.ices.dk/data/tools/Pages/Data-calls.aspx>

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk. For support concerning InterCatch issues please contact: InterCatchsupport@ices.dk. For questions on data submission, please contact: data.call@ices.dk.

Sincerely,



Lotte Worsøe Clausen
Head of the Advisory Department

CC: Manuela Azevedo and Alain Biseau (Chairs of WKELASMO); Jurgen Batsleer and Pascal Lorange (Chairs of WGEF); DG-MARE (EC); Mauricio Ortiz (ICCAT Secretariat).



ICES
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the Exploration of the Sea
Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

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Data call: Data submission for ICES benchmark for stocks of elasmobranchs in the Northeast Atlantic WKELASMO 2022

1.1 Scope of the data call

Landings and discards (catches), sample and biological information, effort, survey, and potential additional data should be provided for selected elasmobranch stocks (Table 1) in the Northeast Atlantic.

1.2 Rationale

This data call supports the work to be made during the ICES Benchmark Workshop for stocks of elasmobranchs in the Northeast Atlantic (WKELASMO 2022). The end product of the benchmark workshop will be an agreed set of data and assessment methodology to be used in future update assessments and as a basis for advice for the four stocks included in table 1.

1.3 Legal framework

Generically, all the governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995¹ Fish Stocks agreement article 5 and 6 to incorporate fisheries impacts on other components of marine ecosystems and WSSD 2002 article 30 to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to oceans policy including fisheries.

For EU Member States, this data call is under the DCF Regulation ((EC) No 2017/1004 and Commission Decision 2016/1251/EU) and in particular, Article 17(3) of regulation (EC) No 2017/1004 which states “...requests made by end-users of scientific data in order to serve as a basis for advice to fisheries management, Member States shall ensure that relevant detailed and aggregated data are updated and made available to the relevant end-users of scientific data within the deadlines set in the request...”

For non-EU states with fisheries operating in the North Atlantic, there is a requirement to make fisheries data available to support fisheries management under OSPAR, HELCOM, and UNCLOS.

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection, as referred to in paragraph (9) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004.

1.4 Deadline

The deadline to deliver the data is **15 November 2021**. **Data submitted after this date cannot be processed and will not be considered at the WKELASMO 2022 meeting.**

¹ United Nations (UN). 2011. Agreement related to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?OpenElement>

1.5 Data to report

1.5.1 Stocks

Table 1. Description of the stocks of interest for the current data call.

Stock ID	Stock description
por.27.nea	Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)
rjc.27.8	Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) in Subarea 8 (Bay of Biscay)
rju.27.7de	Undulate ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>) in divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel)
rjn.27.678abd	Cuckoo ray (<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>) in subareas 6-7 and divisions 8.a-b and 8.d (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, and western English Channel, Bay of Biscay)

1.5.2 Geographical and temporal scope

A) Skates and rays

Temporal scope for landings, discards, population structure data (including tagging and genetics), length frequencies, and effort:

- rju.27.7de: 2005–2020
- rjn.27.678abd: 2009–2020
- rjc.27.8: 2009–2020

For rju.27.7de the extension of the temporal scope back in time to 2005 applies to discard and effort. Landings of skates and rays in 2005-2008 in the stock area were not reported by species and do not need to be reported.

Geographical scope: Data should be disaggregated by **ICES Division**.

B) Porbeagle

Temporal scope for landings, discards, length frequencies, and effort data:

- por.27.nea: (2005–2020)

Geographical scope: Data for FAO area 27, disaggregated by ICES Division.

1.5.3 Catch and biological data

A) Skates and rays:

Landings data previously submitted to ICES in response to WGEF 2021 data Call specifications do not need to be re-submitted again unless they were revised. For discards, the raising method, in particular the auxiliary variable used should be specified.

For undulate ray (rju.27.7de):

1. Times series of landings and fishing effort data (in kW.Days, Days being fishing days), should be provided by quarter and imported into InterCatch if not already imported. Effort data should be the total effort by metier (kW.Days, Days being fishing days) Level 3 (gear group) or finer.
2. Discard data, should be provided by quarter where possible and by year where the number of observations does not allow for reliable estimate at a quarterly basis. If not already imported into InterCatch, must be submitted to data.call@ices.dk using the InterCatch format, along with details about the raising method applied. If discard data are unavailable, there should be no entry for discards. A value of "zero" should only be entered when zero discards have been observed.
3. Length composition (1 cm intervals) in landings and discards should also be imported into InterCatch. For discards, a suitable raising method should be used, considering that the fisheries of the stock were prohibited until 2016. Raising method, in particular the auxiliary variable used should also be specified.

For cuckoo ray (rjn.27.678abd) and thornback ray (rjc.27.8):

1. Times series of landings and fishing effort (in kW.Days, Days being fishing days) data should be provided by year and imported into InterCatch if not already imported. Effort data should be the total effort by metier (kW.Days, Days being fishing days) Level 3 (gear group) or finer.
2. Discard data, should be provided by year if not already imported into InterCatch, must be submitted to data.call@ices.dk using the InterCatch format, along with details about the raising method applied. If discard data are unavailable, there should be no entry for discards. A value of "zero" should only be entered when zero discards have been observed.
3. Length composition (1 cm intervals) of landings and discards should also be imported into InterCatch.

For cuckoo ray only:

1. Any tagging data/information or genetic analysis available to differentiate stocks in the North Atlantic and exchange rates between them (in any format) should be provided.

The files should be sent directly to data.call@ices.dk. The file should be named "WKELASMO_2021_rjn.27.678abd_tagging".

Biomass indices:

For cuckoo ray (rjn.27.678abd) and undulate ray (rju.27.7de):

1. Data from CGFS-Q4 survey in Division 7.e: total and exploitable biomass (≥ 50 cm) indices in Division 7.e, if possible with associated confidence intervals, since 2018 (first year of the survey).

The data file should be sent as a csv file directly to data.call@ices.dk. The file should be named "WKELASMO_2022_rju.27.7de_CGFS_7e".

2. Data from Q1-SWECOS survey: total and exploitable biomass (≥ 50 cm) indices in Division 7.e, if possible with associated confidence intervals, since 2006 (first year of the survey).

The data file should be sent as a csv file directly to data.call@ices.dk. The file should be named "WKELASMO_2022_rju.27.7de_Q1SWECOS".

Survey indices (total and exploitable biomass with confidence intervals and calculation method) or data (catch in number and weight per station, including hauls with zero observations together with suitable station and strata data) from other relevant surveys not available in DATRAS should be provided, where possible. Exploitable biomass is the biomass of individuals ≥ 50 cm.

Table 2: Survey indices required (additional to what is already used or available from DATRAS)

Stock	Survey
rju.27.7de*	CGFS-Q4 (Channel Ground Fish Survey Q4 2018–2021)**
rju.27.7de*	Q1SWECOS (Eng-WEC-BTS-Q1 Southwest Ecosystem Survey; 2006–2021)**

* Acknowledging that most survey data are available on DATRAS; only those datasets that are not on DATRAS or for which the full time-series is not available on DATRAS, are requested specifically here.

** Total and exploitable (individuals ≥ 50 cm) biomass indices with 95% CIs as well as catch in number and weight per station (including hauls with zero observations), should be provided, where possible.

B) Porbeagle:

1. Annual landings of **porbeagle** to be reported in tonnes by fleet (métier-4) and by ICES divisions.
2. Estimated discard quantities of **porbeagle** to be reported in tonnes by fleet (métier-4) and ICES Division with a fully documented calculation methods for discard raisings (the approach to discard estimation should be detailed, whether through a working document or through reference to earlier reports).

The data file should be sent directly to data.call@ices.dk. The file should be named "WKELASMO_2021_por.27.nea_discards".

3. Length-frequency distribution (1cm intervals) of commercially caught **porbeagle** from at-sea observer programmes (sex disaggregated where possible), providing details by fleet (métier-4 if possible), year, ICES Division, identifying which were retained and discarded.

The data file should be sent directly to data.call@ices.dk. The file should be named "WKELASMO_2022_por.27.nea_length_frequency_observer".

4. Length-frequency distribution (1cm intervals) of commercially landed **porbeagle** from market sampling programs (sex disaggregated where possible) by fleet (métier-4 where possible), year and ICES Division.

The data file should be sent as a csv file directly to data.call@ices.dk. The file should be named "WKELASMO_2022_por.27.nea_length_frequency_market".

In addition to the data needs above, national laboratories and other relevant organizations with additional information on porbeagle (including CPUE data, surveys indices, recreational take, genetic data, tagging data, life-history information etc.) are encouraged to inform the ICES porbeagle stock coordinator (Table 1) about the availability of such information by the data call deadline, to allow the preparation of working documents and planning of the data preparation meeting.

1.6 Contact information

For support concerning the data call please contact: the ICES Advisory Department (Advice@ices.dk).

For support concerning other data issues, please contact: data.call@ices.dk

For general queries, responders to the data call may also contact their national members of WGEF.