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Our Ref: H.4/LWC/SM//ck

15 October 2021

Subject: Data call: Data submission for ICES selected stocks under WKNSCS 2022

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for the WKNSCS 2022 benchmark. The data will be used by the ICES Benchmark Workshop for selected North Sea and Celtic Sea stocks (WKNSCS2022) 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: Daniel Duplisea (Chair of WKNSCS); Tanja Miethe and Raphael Girardin (Chairs of WGNSSK); Sophie Nimmegeers and Mathieu Lundy (Chairs of WGCSE); DG-MARE (EC).



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Data call: Data submission for ICES benchmark of selected stocks under WKNCS 2022

1. Scope of the Data Call

Landings and discards (catches), sample and biological information, effort, survey, and potential additional data should be provided for Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Division 7a (Irish Sea) (cod.27.7a), Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in divisions 7.f and 7.g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea) (ple.27.7fg), Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) (ple.27.420), and Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak) (had.27.46a20)., and Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in divisions 6.a and 7.b-c (West of Scotland, West of Ireland) (her.27.6a7bc).

2. Rationale

This data call supports the work to be made during the ICES Benchmark Workshop for North Sea and Celtic Sea fish stocks (WKNCS 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 basis for advice for these stocks.

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...”

4. Deadline

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

5. Data to report

5.1. Stocks

Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Division 7a (Irish Sea) (cod.27.7a), Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in divisions 7.f and 7.g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea) (ple.27.7fg), Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) (ple.27.420), and Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak) (had.27.46a20)., and Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in divisions 6.a and 7.b-c (West of Scotland, West of Ireland) (her.27.6a7bc).

5.2. Geographical and temporal scope

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>

Temporal scope for landings, discards, biological sample data, and effort data:

- cod.27.7a: landings and discards as far back as at least 1968..
- ple.27.420: upload landings and discards from 2002-2020 in IC format if any error corrections were made. Please also inform the stock coordinator about the changes.
- had.27.46a20:
 - o landings and effort: 1972-2020, by fleet/métier, although please submit total landings, where available, if disaggregation by fleet is not possible.
 - o discards and biological sampling for landings and discards: 2002-2020
- her.27.6a7bc: landings, as far back as 1960, or as far as possible, by statistical rectangle, by month (or quarter, if not available by month) following the example format:
Country; Year; Month; Quarter; ICESRect; LandedTonnes
SCO; 1984; 2; 1; 18E8; 0.104
SCO; 1984; 3; 1; 18E8; 0.606
SCO; 1984; 2; 1; 19E7; 0.413

Temporal scope for survey data;

- cod.27.7a: as far back as possible, IBTS_Q1, IBTS_Q4, FSP (data already being used)
- ple.27.420:
 - o DYFS: since 2010 in DATRAS format
 - o BTS: as far back as possible in DATRAS format
 - o IBTS-Q3: update in DATRAS format as far back as possible and **correct errors if any**. If the data were collected not fully following the original sampling programme, please inform and send the data separately to the stock coordinator.
 - o IBTS-Q1: update in DATRAS format as far back as possible and **correct errors if any**. If the data were collected not fully following the original sampling programme, please inform and send the data separately to the stock coordinator.
- had.27.46a20:
 - o NS-IBTS Q1: 1983-2021
 - o NS-IBTS Q3: 1991-2020
 - o SCOWCGFS Q1: 2011-2021
 - o SCOWCGFS Q4: 2011-2020
 - o IE-IGFS Q4: 2003-2020
 - o SWC-IBTSQ1: 1985-2010
 - o SWC-IBTSQ4: 1996-2009

Additional data:

- Cod 27A tagging study data from mark-recapture projects in the Irish Sea and adjacent areas. This needs to be data on individual releases and recaptures (also data from fish that were not re-captured).

Geographical scope is found in Table 1. Data are expected to be disaggregated by ICES Division (except haddock). For haddock, data in the North Sea should be provided either by division (27.4.a, 27.4.b, 27.4.c) or by Subarea (27.4), whichever is most appropriate given national sampling designs.

Table 1: List of ICES areas and species.

Area	Area code	Species
Skagerrak	27.3a.20	Plaice, haddock
North Sea	27.4	Haddock*
North Sea	27.4.a	Plaice, haddock*
North Sea	27.4.b	Plaice, haddock*

North Sea	27.4.c	Plaice, haddock*
West coast of Scotland	27.6.a	haddock
Irish Sea Celtic Seas	27.7.a	cod
	27.6.a	herring
	27.7.b	herring
	27.7.c	herring

* For haddock, data in the North Sea should be provided either by division (27.4.a, 27.4.b, 27.4.c) or by Subarea (27.4)

5.3. Catch and biological data

For (STOCKS):

1. Time series of landings, discards, and effort data should be provided on a quarterly basis and imported into InterCatch if not already imported.
2. Sample information: the number, mean weight and mean length at age should be imported to InterCatch. The number of length and age measurements should also be imported (including the fields: SampledCatch, NumSamplesLngt, NumLngtMeas, NumSamplesAge, NumAgeMeas) per quarter.
3. Any **tagging data/information** or genetic analysis available to differentiate stocks in the North Atlantic and exchange rates between them (any format). The files should be sent directly to data.call@ices.dk. *The file should be named "WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_CODE_tagging"*.
4. Any **tagging data/information** (mark – recapture) available for cod in the Irish Sea and adjacent areas should be sent directly to data.call@ices.dk. *The file should be named "WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_CODE_tagging"*.
5. Time series of maturity at age and maturity at length (ogives) data which are not already included in DATRAS. (Proportion of mature individuals per age/length class per year and quarter). The information on which maturity stage key has been used can also be uploaded in DATRAS. See: <https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=361>. The data file should be sent directly to data.call@ices.dk. *The file should be named "WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_CODE_maturity"*.

a. Indices

Indices from national surveys (see Table 2) that can be used to derive relative abundance indices (by age). One file per survey should be submitted to data.call@ices.dk with the name "WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_CODE_[SURVEY_NAME]". The associated information on the survey design and index calculations should also be included in this file.

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

Stock	Survey

*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.

**Numbers at length per station (including hauls with zero observations), should be provided, sex-disaggregated, where possible.

Belgian commercial LPUE indices (Table 3) that can be used to derive relative abundance and biomass trends (by age). Alternative standardized and non-standardized indices should also be submitted based on different effort units (e.g., kw-days, fishing hours, days at sea). One file per survey should be submitted to data.call@ices.dk with the name “WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_CODE_[NATIONAL_INDEX_NAME]”. The associated information on the survey design and index calculations should also be included in this file.

Table 3: Commercial CPUE indices required

Stock	LPUE index
ple7f.g.	Belgium TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0_all.relative abundance and biomass trends (by age). 2004-2020

b. Additional data

1. Stock weights for **haddock** from fisheries-independent sources are required if available. *The name of the file to be submitted to data.call@ices.dk should be “WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_NAME_stock_weights”.*
2. Any estimates of recreational catches for **cod** *The name of the file to be submitted to data.call@ices.dk should be “WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_NAME_recreational”*
3. Any updated growth parameters for **plaice in 7fg** from national programmes. *The name of the file to be submitted to data.call@ices.dk should be “WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_NAME_growth”.* Data on plaice age from IrGFS (2003-2020) and Belgium TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0 (2004-2020) to be submitted also as spreadsheets with primary individual fish data.
4. Any updated growth, natural mortality parameter or related studies result from national programmes for plaice 420. Please send the information directly to the stock coordinator.
5. Any indices of reproductive potential for **haddock** from national programmes. *The name of the file to be submitted to data.call@ices.dk should be “WKNSCS_2022_STOCK_NAME_reproductive_potential”*

6. Data submission

Data on landings and discards (catches) and biological sample data should be uploaded to InterCatch, which is available at this link: <https://intercatch.ices.dk/Login.aspx>. Please see the ‘InterCatch Exchange Format Manual’ on the ICES website for information on the required exchange format and used codes at <https://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/InterCatch.aspx>. For discard data, the data source should also be provided (e.g. “information from fishery”, “expert judgment”, “sampling”, “self-sampling” etc.) using the SI comment field, field number 23 “InfoStockCoordinator” . Use the following link: <http://intercatch.ices.dk> for uploading to InterCatch.

Survey, effort and additional data should be submitted to the ICES Secretariat via email (data.call@ices.dk). Survey data are requested as CSV files without specific format, although explicit headers and an accompanying description of the data format or working documents are requested.

7. Contact information

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

For support concerning InterCatch issues please contact: InterCatchSupport@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 the relevant expert working groups (i.e. WGNSSK for haddock and plaice in the North Sea, WGCSE for cod and plaice in 7fg and HAWG for herring)

IMPORTANT:

- 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.