

Scientific, Technical and Economic **Committee for Fisheries (STECF)**

Report of the Working Group on the evaluation of Economic variables to be collected for the fishing industry, the processing and aquaculture sectors under the new EC Data Collection Regulation (SGECA 08-01)

Joint Working Group on Economic Affairs (SGECA), Technical and Economic **Committee for Fisheries (STECF)**

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SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)

STECF COMMENTS ON THE REPORT OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (SGECA)

SGECA 08-01 EVALUATION OF ECONOMIC VARIABLES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE FISHING, PROCESSING AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS UNDER THE NEW DATA COLLECTION REGULATION

STECF OPINION EXPRESSED DURING THE PLENARY MEETING 14-18 APRIL 2008, HAMBURG

1. INTRODUCTION

STECF is requested to review the report of the SGECA 08-01 meeting of January 21-25, 2008 (Lisbon), evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for the Working Group were as follows:

- 1. Review the list of proposed economic variables to be collected in the new DCR for the fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors presented in the ad-hoc Commission document 25
- 2. Propose or update stratification for:
- regional length vessel classes
- size category of fishing companies (see table for the fishing sector)
- size segmentation for the enterprises (< 5 employees, 5-10 employees etc) and the segmentation of product size categories (see table for the aquaculture sector)
- segmentation of production by species (see table for the processing industry)
- 1. Propose guidelines on how to estimate capital values and costs (this will based on the recommendation from the study "Evaluation of the Capital value, Investments and Capital costs" 6, the Salerno Meeting 22 and from Member States experiences, to be presented during the meeting).

3. STECF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

STECF welcomes the report of SGECA 08-01 and generally endorses its conclusions.

STECF notes the concerns expressed within the working group about the apparent requirement in the forthcoming Commission regulation that all economic variables should continue to be collected for all active vessels (i.e., all vessels in the commercial fleet register which are active for more than zero days in the year). This question, which has both theoretical and practical dimensions, has been discussed in STECF working groups on numerous occasions without resolution.

On this subject, STECF recalls its recommendation of November 2007 that "the Commission encourages MS to co-operate with the JRC study on [survey] thresholds and their implications for data quality. A working group meeting should then consider the results of the study and the implications for the new DCR". Since it appears that no progress has been achieved on this, STECF strongly endorses SGECA's suggestion to launch a study to assess the theoretical and practical issues relating to the use of data collection thresholds based upon vessel activity or turnover and to make recommendations for a harmonised approach.

STECF considers that this issue should ideally be resolved prior to adoption of the new Commission regulation. If this is not possible, STECF recommends that interim guidelines should be agreed between the Commission and STECF for the evaluation of MS' National Programmes and Technical Reports until the regulation and guidelines can, if necessary, be amended in the light of the proposed study.

STECF also agrees with the working group's recommendations to conduct studies on the valuation of intangible assets (such as quotas and licences), on the implications of collecting data from different sources (e.g., questionnaires, company accounts, statistics, etc.) and on the requirement for "social indicators".

Regarding the processing industry, STECF notes that some significant practical issues may arise in the collection of data. In Annex II the report states that

"For enterprises that carry out fish processing but not as a main activity it is mandatory to collect the following data, in the first year of each programming period of the Data Collection Regulation, starting in the second programming period of the new DCR:

- number of enterprises
- turnover attributed to fish processing"

To make a census of every business that might potentially be processing fish, in order to establish whether that company should be covered by data collection, will be costly and largely unnecessary. STECF therefore recommends that data should be collected only for those businesses that are classified as fish processing businesses under the existing Eurostat definition.

ANNEX 1 SGECA 08-01 EVALUATION OF ECONOMIC VARIABLES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE FISHING, PROCESSING AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS UNDER THE NEW DATA COLLECTION REGULATION WORKING GROUP REPORT

This report does not necessarily reflect the view of the European Commission and in no way anticipates the Commission's future policy in this area

4. Introduction

4.1. Background

In 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 the Commission conducted a wide consultation process with Member States and end-users (the scientific community) with the aim of establishing a firm basis for improving the Community Data Collection Programme. The intention of the Commission was to incorporate the outcomes of the consultation process when modifying the current data collection framework, and to investigate the need for new categories of data, for instance, environmental data in relation to the CFP and economic data to measure the performance of the aquaculture sector.

In order to prepare the review of the Community Data Collection Regulation (DCR), several technical and scientific workshops were convened during 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. These workshops focused on the fleet-based approach (definition of the concept, technical aspects for sampling methodology etc.), the ecosystem approach (definition and establishment of a list of indicators to be collected etc.) and the economic issues (definition of the economic variables to be collected for the fishing sector, the aquaculture sector and the processing industry)⁵.

With regard to the economic issues, the Commission followed the recommendations of STECF-SGECA and launched two studies to finalize the review of economic variables to be collected, one on the evaluation of capital value, investments and capital costs in the fishing sector and the other on the calculation of labour including full-time equivalent (FTE) in fisheries⁶.

4.2. Terms of Reference

1. Review the list of proposed economic variables to be collected in the new DCR for the fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors presented in the ad-hoc Commission document

Commission Staff Working Paper. STECF report SEC (2005) 369. Brussels, 01-05 November 2004. 111 p. Commission Staff Working Paper SEC (2006, xxx): Report of the STECF Sub-group on Economic Affairs (SGECA06-01); Working Group on Processing Industry and Aquaculture: Review of Economic Issues. Ispra, Italy, 13-17 February 2006, 28p+ annexes.

Commission Staff Working Paper SEC (2007, xxx): Report of the STECF Sub-group on Economic Affairs (SGECA 07-01): Meeting on Data Collection Commission Regulation N°1543/2000, N°1639/2001, and N ° 1581/2004. Salerno, Italy, 15-19 January 2007, 21p+ annexes.

⁵ Report of the ECODATA Workshop on Economic Indicators. Paris IFREMER 10–14 May 2004, 18 pp. + annexes.

⁶ IREPA Onlus Co-ordinator, 2006. Evaluation of the capital value, investments and capital costs in the fisheries sector Study N° FISH/2005/03 203p.

LEI WAGENINGENUR Co-ordinator, 2006. Calculation of labour including full-time equivalent (FTE) in fisheries Study N° FISH/2005/14, 142 p.

- 2. Propose or update stratification for:
 - regional length vessel classes
 - size category of fishing companies (see table for the fishing sector)
 - size segmentation for the enterprises (< 5 employees, 5-10 employees etc) and the segmentation of product size categories (see table for the aquaculture sector)
 - segmentation of production by species (see table for the processing industry)
- 3. Propose guidelines on how to estimate capital values and costs (this will based on the recommendation from the study "Evaluation of the Capital value, Investments and Capital costs" ⁶, the Salerno Meeting ²² and from Member States experiences, to be presented during the meeting).

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5. RESULTS

5.1. Fisheries sector

SGECA was asked to discuss the Commission staff working paper on economic variables for the fisheries, aquaculture and processing industry to be included in the next Data Collection Regulation. The Commission working paper is a summary of the output from the above mentioned meetings together with additional requests made by the Commission. The revised tables are presented in Annex 1.

In addition to the table of variables, SGECA discussed the issue of the differences in fishing activity of vessels and the consequences for the quality of economic data. Currently the level of economic activity and annual revenue for a vessel in the fleet register ranges from zero to millions of Euro.

SGECA recognises that distinguishing between vessels with high and low activity could increase the quality of estimates of economic variables. The group considered that to make this stratification the Member States would need complete information on activity and production (by species). SGECA recommends that a study should be carried out to assess the theoretical and practical advantages and disadvantages of making such a distinction and recommends that, if it is necessary to make a distinction then a methodology be described to facilitate this. The study should include case studies from all DCR regions.

SGECA reinforced the recommendations made by SGECA in Salerno in January 2007 (2.6.2) to conduct a study on methodologies for the valuation of intangible assets within the fisheries sector.

SGECA discussed the list of cost items to be included in the categories of variable and non-variable operational costs. SGECA concluded that it would not be possible to compile an exhaustive list of all cost items. Therefore, SGECA strongly recommends that an illustrative list should be provided as a guideline on the DCR website. In order to compile the list, JRC will send out an additional request to MS to provide information on their aggregation of non-variable and variable costs. SGECA also recommended that essential variable and non-variable cost items in particular should be identified in this list.

In the discussions on the different economic indicators, SGECA acknowledged that the fact that the vessel has been chosen as the reference production unit for data collection and the variety of data sources to collect information (questionnaires, accounts, statistical information), might create inconsistencies between data from different sources/MS. Thus SGECA recommends a

study to look into consequences of obtaining data from different sources for the comparability of the resulting economic statistics between different MS. This study should make an overview of possible problem areas (e.g. splitting up accounts between different vessels, identification of costs that are related to the operation of the vessel in company accounts) and propose methodologies in order to better harmonize methods for data collection from different data sources.

SGECA discussed the subject of social indicators and acknowledged that variables other that those currently collected for the DCR might be of great importance in fisheries. SGECA recommended a study/workgroup to consider appropriate social indicators, available sources of information and suitable ways of collecting such data.

TOR 2

SGECA discussed the subject of regional length classes, but came to the conclusion that since the subject had been discussed extensively on previous occasions and no new information has become available to the group, there was no reason to discuss this issue again. SGECA recommends that this subject should be discussed in the upcoming meeting on the implementation of the fleet based approach (SGRN/SGECA 08 02, Nantes).

ANNEX 1 REVISED COMMISSION PAPER

All variables are to be collected on an annual basis per fleet segment as defined in XXX unless other information is given in the specification column.

Variable group	Variable			Definition	Guideline
		Specification	Unit	Structural	
				Business	
				Statistics (SBS) Council Regulation (EC) No 2700/98	
Income	Gross value of landings		Euro	12 11 0	
				excl. para 4	
	Income from leasing out quota or other fishing rights		Euro	12 11 0	
				excl. para 4	
	Direct subsidies ¹		Euro	12 11 0	
				excl. para 4	
	Other income ²		Euro	12 11 0	
				excl. para 4	
Personnel costs	Wages and salaries of crew ³		Euro	13 31 0	
	Imputed value of unpaid labour ⁴		Euro	13 32 0	
			Euro		
Energy costs	Energy costs ⁵		Euro	20 11 0	
	30			(13 11 0)	
Repair and maintenance costs	Repair and maintenance costs ⁶		Euro	(13 11 0)	3.70.
				(e) (1)(2)
Other operational costs	Variable costs ⁷		Euro	(13 11 0)	
	Non-variable costs ⁸		Euro	(13 11 0)	

	Lease/rental payments for quota or other fishing rights	Euro	(13 11 0)	
Capital costs	Annual depreciation ⁹	Euro		6.02 .to 6.05.
Capital value	Value of physical capital: depreciated replacement value ¹⁰	Euro		7.09. to 7.24
	Value of physical capital: depreciated historical value 10	Euro		7.09. to 7.24
	Value of quota and other fishing rights ¹¹	Euro		7.09. to 7.24
	Investments in physical capital ¹²	Euro	15 11 0	3.102. to 3.111.
Investments				
Financial position	Debt/asset ratio ¹³	%		
Employment	Engaged crew ¹⁴	Number	16 11 0; 16 13 0; 16 13 1; 16 13 2 16 13 5; 16 14 0	11.32. to 11.34
			16 15 0	
	FTE National ¹⁵	Number	16 11 0; 16 13 0 16 13 1; 16 13 2 16 13 5; 16 14 0	11.32. to 11.34
			16 15 0	
	FTE harmonised ¹⁶	Number	16 11 0; 16 13 0 16 13 1; 16 13 2 16 13 5; 16 14 0	11.32. to 11.34
			16 15 0	
Fleet	Number	Number	N/A	N/A
	Mean LOA	Metres	N/A	N/A

	Mean GT		GT	N/A	N/A
	Mean kW		kW	N/A	N/A
	Mean age		Years	N/A	N/A
Effort	Days at sea		Days	N/A	N/A
	Energy consumption		Litres	N/A	N/A
Number of fishing enterprises/units	Number of fishing enterprises/units ¹⁷	By size category: 1. 1 owned vessel 2. 2-5 owned vessels 3. >5 owned vessels	Number	N/A	N/A

Production value per species	Value of landings per species	Quarterly basis; Live weight	Euro	N/A	N/A
	Average price per species ¹⁸	Annually and per month	Euro/kg	N/A	N/A

Footnotes

- 1. Includes direct payments, e.g., compensation for stopping fishing, refunds of fuel duty or similar lump sum compensation payments. Excludes social benefit payments, indirect subsidies, e.g., reduced duty on inputs such as fuel, investment subsidies.
- 2. Includes other income from use of the vessel, e.g., recreational fishing, tourism, oil rig duty, etc, also insurance payments for damage/loss of gear/vessel.
- 3. Including social security costs.
- 4. For example, the vessel owner's own labour. Chosen methodology should be explained by the Member State in their National Programme.
- 5. Excluding lubrication oil. Broken down by type if possible (petrol, diesel, biofuel, etc.),
- 6. Gross costs of maintenance and repairs to vessel and gear
- 7. Includes all purchased inputs (goods and services) related to fishing effort and/or catch/landings.
- 8. Includes purchased inputs not related to effort and/or catch/landings (including leased equipment).
- 9. Estimated according to [the proposed PIM methodology in the capital valuation report]. The data and estimation procedures should be explained in the National Programme.
- 10. Value of the vessel, i.e., the hull, engine, all onboard equipment and the gear. Estimated according to [the proposed PIM methodology in the capital valuation report]. The data and estimation procedures should be explained in the National Programme.
- 11. Where appropriate. Methodology for estimation to be explained in the National Programme.
- 12. Improvements to existing vessel/gear during the given year
- 13. % debt in relation to total capital value (as defined above)

- 14. Number of jobs on board, equal to the average number of persons working for and paid by the vessel. This includes temporary crew as well as rotation crew. [Study FISH/2005/14, "FTE Report"]
- 15. Full-time equivalent (FTE) based on the national reference level for FTE working hours of the crew members on board the vessel (excluding resting time) and the working hours onshore. If the annual working hours per crew member exceed the reference level, the FTE equals 1 per crew member. If not, the FTE equals the ratio between the hours worked and the reference level. [The methodology should be in accordance with the Study FISH/2005/14, "FTE Report" as amended by the SGECA meeting in Salerno and should be explained in the national programme.]
- 16. Full-time equivalent (FTE) based on a threshold of 2000 hours per FTE using the same methodology as in footnote 15.
- 17. Situation at 1st of January as defined in the fleet register. Shared ownership (involving more than one person) should be regarded as one unit.
- 18. Prices in euros per kilo live weight

Comments

- The population is all vessels in the Community Fleet Fishing Register
- Fleet indicators and number of enterprises should be given for the entire population.
- Active vessels are vessels that have been in operation more than 0 days during the year
- Economic variable should be given for all active vessels

National currencies should be converted into Euro using the average annual exchange rate available at the ECB.

ANNEX II: AQUACULTURE

All variables are to be collected on an annual basis per segment. The segments are specified in the segmentation table below.

Variable group	Variable	Specification	Unit	Definition	Guideline
				Structural Business Statistics (SBS) Council Regulation (EC) No 2700/98	
Income	Turnover	Per species	Euro	12 11 0	
	Subsidies ¹		Euro		
	Other income		Euro		
Personnel Costs	Wages and salaries ²		Euro	13 31 0	
	Imputed value of unpaid labour ³		Euro		
Energy costs	Energy costs		Euro	20 11 0	
Raw material costs	Livestock costs		Euro		SBS (13 11 0)
	Feed costs		Euro		SBS (13 11 0)
Repair and maintenance costs	Repair and maintenance		Euro		SBS (13 11 0)
Other operational costs	Other operational costs ⁴		Euro		SBS (13 11 0)
Capital costs ⁵	Depreciation of capital		Euro		ESA ⁶ 6.02. to 6.05.

	Financial costs, net ⁷		Euro		
Extraordinary costs, net	Extraordinary costs, net		Euro		
Capital value ⁸	Total value of assets		Euro	43 30 0	ESA 7.09. to 7.24.
			Euro		,,_ ,,
Investments	Net Investments ⁹		Euro	15 11 0	ESA 3.102. to 3.111.
			Euro	15 21 0	J.111.
Debt ¹⁰	Debt		Euro		
Raw material Volume ¹¹	Livestock		Ton		
Volume	Fish Feed		Ton		
Volume of Sales ¹²	Volume of Sales	Per species	Ton ¹³		
Employment	Number of persons employed	By Gender	Number	16 11 0	
	FTE National ¹⁴	By Gender ¹⁵	Number	16 14 0	
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises	By size category where the number of persons employed is: (SBS 16.11.0)is: $1. \le 5$ $2. 6-10$ $3. > 10$	Number	11 11 0	

Footnotes

- 1. Includes direct payments, e.g. compensation for stopping trading, refunds of fuel duty or similar lump sum compensation payments. Excludes social benefit payments and indirect subsidies, e.g. reduced duty on inputs such as fuel or investment subsidies.
- 2. Including social security costs.
- 3. Chosen methodology should be explained by the Member State in their National Programme.
- 4. Packaging costs are included in other operational costs.
- 5. Chosen methodology should be explained by the Member State in their National Programme.
- 6. ESA refers to the EUROSTAT European System of Accounts 1995
- 7. Interest costs of capital; interest on the national 5 year Government bonds could be used as proxy for financial costs.
- 8. At the end of the year
- 9. Purchase and Sale of assets during the year
- 10. At the end of the fiscal year
- 11. The variable for raw material volume should correspond to the variable on raw material cost.
- 12. The variable for production volume should correspond to the variable on turnover value
- 13. Conversion factors from numbers to tonnes should be stated in the National Programme
- 14. FTE National is number of full time equivalent estimated from a national threshold
- 15. Optional

Comments

- National currencies should be converted into Euros using the average annual exchange rate available at the ECB.
- The statistical unit is the "enterprise" defined as the lowest legal entity for accounting purposes.
- The population refers to enterprises whose primary activity is defined according to the EUROSTAT <u>definition</u> under NACE Code 05.02: "Fish Farming".

The following sector SEGMENTATION TABLE should be applied for the collection of aquaculture data:

	Fish farmin	Fish farming techniques ¹			Shellfish farming techniques ¹			
	Land based	l farms		Cages				
	Hatcheries and Nurseries ²	On growing	Combined ³	Cages ⁴	Rafts	Long line	Bottom ⁵	Other
Salmon								
Trout								
Sea bass & Sea bream								
Carp								
Other fresh water fish								
Other marine fish								
Mussel								
Oyster								
Clam								
Other shellfish								

Footnotes on Segmentation

- Enterprises should be segmented according to their main farming technique.
 Hatcheries and nurseries are defined as places for the artificial breeding, hatching and rearing through the early life stages of aquatic animals. For statistical purposes, hatcheries are limited to the production of fertilised eggs. Further juveniles stages of aquatic animals are considered being produced in

nurseries. When hatcheries and nurseries are closely associated, statistics shall refer only to the latest juvenile stage produced. (COM (2006) 864 of 19 July 2007)

- 3. Combined is defined as enterprises using hatcheries, nurseries and on growing techniques.
- 4. <u>Cages</u> are defined as open or covered enclosed structures constructed with net, mesh or any porous material allowing natural water interchange. These structures may be floating, suspended or fixed to the substrate but still permitting water interchange from below. (COM (2006) 864 of 19 July 2007)
- 5. "Bottom" techniques cover shellfish farming in inter-tidal areas (directly on the ground or surelevated)

Comments on segmentation

- As a first approach, data must be segmented by species and technique for aquaculture, as in the table above. This segmentation may be changed in the future, by the Commission, as Member States gain knowledge and experience in collecting data for the aquaculture industry.
- It is mandatory to follow the segmentation set out in the table above. However, Member States have the option to further segment by size of enterprise or other relevant criteria.
- In order to protect commercial interests, if a segment contains less than 10 enterprises, data should be collected but not reported.

ANNEX III: PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Please refer to the comments below for the periodicity of data collection..

				Definition	Guidelines
Variable group	Variable	Specification	Unit	Structural	
				Business	
				Statistics (SBS) Council Regulation (EC) No 2700/98	
Income	Turnover		Euro	12 11 0	
	Subsidies ¹		Euro		
	Other income		Euro		
Personnel Costs	Wages and salaries of staff ²		Euro	13 31 0	
	Imputed value of unpaid labour ³		Euro		
Energy costs	Energy costs		Euro	20 11 0	SBS 13 11 0
Raw material costs	Purchase of fish and other raw material for production		Euro		SBS 13 11 0
Other operational costs	Other operational costs ⁴		Euro		SBS 13 11 0
Capital costs ⁵	Depreciation of capital		Euro		ESA ⁶ 6.02. to 6.05.
	Financial costs, net ⁷		Euro		
Extraordinary costs, net	Extraordinary costs, net		Euro		
Capital value ⁸	Total value of assets		Euro	43 30 0	ESA 7.09 to 7.24

Net Investments	Net Investments ⁹		Euro	15 11 0 15 21 0	ESA 3.102. to 3.111.
Debt ¹⁰	Debt		Euro		
Employment	Number of persons employed	By Gender	Number	16 11 0	
	FTE National ¹¹	By Gender ¹²	Number	16 14 0	
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises	By size category where the number of persons employed $(16.11.0)$ is: $1. \le 10$ $2.11 - 49$ $3.50 - 249$ $4. > 250$	Number	11 11 0	

Footnotes

- 1. Includes direct payments. Excludes social benefit payments and indirect subsidies.
- 2. Including social security costs.
- 3. Chosen methodology should be explained by the Member State in their National Programme.
- 4. Packaging costs are included in other operational costs.
- 5. Chosen methodology should be explained in the National Programme.
- 6. ESA refers to European System of Accounts 1995 (EU Reg. 2223/96, EU Reg. 1267/2003. Eurostat ESA 1995 manual).
- 7. Interest costs of capital; interest on the national 5 years Government bonds may be used as proxy for financial costs
- 8. Total accumulated value of all net investments in the enterprise at the end of the year.
- 9. Purchase and Sale of assets during the year
- 10. At the end of the year
- 11. Methodology should be as discussed in the FTE Report (No FISH/2005/14).
- 12. Optional

Comments

- National currencies should be converted into Euros using the average annual exchange rate available at the ECB.
- The statistical unit for collection of data should be the "enterprise" as defined as the lowest legal entity for accounting purposes.
- The population refers to enterprises' whose main activity is defined according to the EUROSTAT <u>definition</u> under NACE Code 15.20: "Processing and preserving of fish and fish products."

As a guideline, the national codes applied by Member States under EC No 852/2004 of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, EC No 853/2004 of 29 April 2004 on hygiene rules for food of animal origin and EC No 854/2004 of 29 April 2004 on the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption, should additionally be used as a means of cross checking and identifying enterprises classified under NACE code 15.20.

It is mandatory for Member States to collect all of the above variables on an annual basis for the population, as defined above.

For enterprises that carry out fish processing but not as a main activity it is mandatory to collect the following data, in the first year of each programming period of the Data Collection Regulation, starting in the second programming period of the new DCR:

- Number of Enterprises
- The turnover attributed to fish processing

ANNEX I DECLARATIONS OF EXPERTS

Declarations of invited experts are published on the STECF web site on https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home together with the final report.

European Commission

EUR 23823 EN – Joint Research Centre – Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen

Title: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries. Report of Working Group on the Evaluation of economic variables to be collected for the fishing, processing and aquaculture sectors under the new data collection regulation (SGECA -08-01).

Author(s): Van Oostenbrugge H., Anderson J., Berkenhagen J., Daures F., De Meo M., Ebeling M., Elias L., Girard S., Guillen J., Hatcher A., Ioannou M., Jonsson A., Nord J., Normark Andersen K., O'Connor H., Pereira L., Virtanen J., Westh H K.,

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Abstract

Previous to the SGECA 08-01 meeting held in Lisbon on the 21-25th of January 2009 JRC and DG FISH produced a Commission staff working paper on economic parameters to be collected within the new DCR. The Working paper incorporated the outcomes of previous meeting on the subject as well as some indicators important for the Commission. The aim of the meeting was for the experts to provide scientific input to the Commission staff working paper as a final step before the paper was adopted in the draft of the new DCR. Considering the close nature of the Economic parameters for the processing and aquaculture industries, it was agreed to split the participants in two sub-groups, one dealing with the fisheries and one with processing and aquaculture industries. STECF reviewed the report of the SGECA 08-02 Working Group during its plenary meeting on 14th to 18th of April 2008.

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