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DCF Data Call Coverage Report for the Mediterranean and Black Sea in 2014

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Abstract

DG Mare called the DCF Data from Member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea on April 2014, defining the deadline of 9 June 2014 for data submissions from member states, under the Community Framework of Data Collection Regulation (DCR) (Council Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008 of 25th February 2008). A second deadline specific for the Black Sea was established on 8 September 2014. The data call also defined a third deadline 12 January 2015 for the submission of trawl surveys data for Mediterranean MS. aruptii.

The DCF data submitted by national correspondents are duly evaluated in the present coverage report by JRC DCF team as part of an Administrative Arrangement with DG MARE. The report provides a detailed review of the timeliness and completeness of data submissions by Member States.

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Introduction

DG Mare called the DCF Data from Member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea on April 2014, defining the deadline of 9 June 2014 for data submissions from member states, under the Community Framework of Data Collection Regulation (DCR) (Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 of 25th February 2008). A second deadline specific for the Black Sea was established on 8 September 2014. The data call also defined a third deadline 12 January 2015 for the submission of trawl surveys data for Mediterranean MS. The data call and its format are documented on the JRC's DCF website: <http://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-calls>.

In comparison with the 2013 data call, the format of the DCF data call in 2013 did not change, with the exception of additional species included in the Appendix 7 of the data call.

The DCF data submitted by national correspondents are duly evaluated in the present coverage report by JRC DCF team as part of an Administrative Arrangement with DG MARE. The report provides a detailed review of the timeliness and completeness of data submissions by Member States

The report also builds on the data quality performed by Expert Working Groups convened under the STECF framework and partially by JRC data collection team. The Coverage Report may support end user feedback provided to DG MARE to facilitate the evaluation of EU Member States' compliance with DCF provisions.

The evaluation is based on data specifications defined in the 2014 DCF data calls issued by DG MARE and it is based on three aspects: 1) timeliness of the submissions (according to the deadlines), 2) completeness (availability and coverage) of the data submitted, and 3) quality that allows to provide the requested scientific advice. Regarding the quality it was evaluated, alternatively, if the data were incomplete and/or insufficient and/or inconsistent and as a result hindered or delayed the scientific advice process.

Overall data review

Data coverage and timeliness in respect to deadline

The data call issued on April 2014 for the Mediterranean and Black Sea had a deadline on the 9th of June 2014. Data was uploaded by each country according to the following table:

Table 2.1.1. Timeline of data upload from Mediterranean Member States, data call deadline of the 9th of June 2014.

COUNTRY	First Upload	Last Upload
ITA	02 June 2014	11 July 2014
ESP	27 June 2014	03 July 2014
FRA	06 June 2014	01 July 2014
SVN	04 June 2014	02 July 2014
MLT	06 June 2014	06 June 2014
CYP	02 June 2014	11 July 2014
GRC	08 June 2014	07 July 2014
HRV	05 June 2014	09 June 2014

The data call issued on April 2014 for the Black Sea had a deadline on the 8th of September 2014. Data was uploaded by each country according to the following table:

Table 2.1.2. Timeline of data upload from Black Sea Mediterranean Member States, data call deadline of the 8th of September 2014.

COUNTRY	First Upload	Last Upload
ROM	10 July 2014	03 Sep 2014
BUL	11 Sep 2014	11 Sep 2014

The data call issued on April 2014 had a second deadline for MEDITS survey data on the 12th of January 2015. Data was uploaded by each country according to the following table:

Table 2.1.3. Timeline of data upload from Mediterranean Member States, data call deadline of the 12^h of January 2015.

COUNTRY	First Upload	Last Upload
ITA	23 December 2014	23 January 2015
ESP	23 December 2014	23 December 2014
FRA	06 January 2015	09 January 2015
SVN	06 January 2015	08 January 2015
MLT	No data submitted	
CYP	No data submitted	
GRC	15 January 2015	21 January 2015
HRV	09 January 2015	12 January 2015

The timeline of upload has been in many cases well after the data call deadline and up to 1 working day before the scheduled STECF Expert Working Groups (EWG 14-09 and 14-14). The data call does not put explicit restrictions on the numbers of files to be uploaded for each requested table, however large amount of separate files with no standard naming convention can create problems to both Member States (MS) and JRC. Normally each country should provide 4 fisheries tables, 6 MEDITS tables and 3 acoustic surveys tables (the latter are not necessary for countries which do not conduct an acoustic survey). In the case of the large size of TC MEDITS file, splitting of the data in more files is necessary, thus 15-20 files are considered normal in a data call. However reaching almost 150+ files implies unnecessarily splitting of the individual tables by year and GSA. This is an unjustified practice that can cause serious problems. For instance, several files named with the same name contained different data, or in another case files with different names contained the same or partially overlapping data. Finally in many instances the fields of the files which did not conform to the data call and integers instead of text or vice versa appeared in the uploaded data.

All of the above has required an extra amount of work and time for the JRC data collection team to check for duplicated records and errors. The JRC data collection team has been able to deliver all data (fisheries and MEDITS survey) the last working day before the beginning of EWG 14-09 and EWG 14-14.

The overall performance of data coverage, timeliness and progress of submissions by member state and main table/variable can be visually evaluated on line in the following link:

https://visualise.jrc.ec.europa.eu/t/dcf/views/medbs_coverage/Coverage?:embed=y&:display_coun t=no

More detailed information can be traced therein.

Data coverage Issues by main data tables

Red cells (no data), in the aforementioned on-line coverage tabular version, do not always indicate failure to submit available data. Some of the Mediterranean member states have entered the EU long after the initiation of DCF (2002) and as a result no data were collected.

Effort

- France did not submit any data for years 2003-2011, 2012 and 2013 data is available only for GSA 7, no data from GSA 8.
- Greece did not submit data during the years 2007 and 2009-2012 due to no realization of any DCF tasks.
- Spain did not submit data for the years 2003-2008.
- Cyprus submitted only partial effort data (Nb of vessels) during 2013.

Catch (Landings and Discards)

- Greece did not submit data during the years 2007 and 2009-2012 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. Also, for the years before 2013 only partial data were submitted (data for 6 species only)
- Partial data were submitted for Cyprus (2005), France (2004), Greece (2003 and 2008), Italy (2005 and 2007) and Spain (2002-2004, 2006-2007).
- Croatia submitted data for only 9 species.
- France has submitted data for only 11 species.
- No data from GSA 8-Corsica (France)

Abundance

- Greece did not submit data during the years 2007 and 2009-2011 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. GSA 22 was submitted for available year, GSA 20 only in 2013.
- Italy did not submit data for the period 2002-2008.
- Slovenia has submitted MEDITS demersal survey data instead of the requested hydroacoustic data for small pelagics.

Abundance/Biomass

- Bulgaria, did not submit any data
- Greece did not submit data during the years 2007 and 2009-2011 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. GSA 22 was submitted for available year, GSA 20 only in 2013.
- Italy did not submit data for the period 2002-2008.

Biomass

- Bulgaria did not submit any data
- Greece did not submit data during the years 2007 and 2009-2011 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. GSA 22 was submitted for available year, GSA 20 only in 2013.
- Italy did not submit data for the period 2002-2008.
- Slovenia has submitted MEDITS demersal survey data instead of the requested hydroacoustic data for small pelagics.

MEDITS TA

- Greece did not submit data during the years 2002, 2007 and 2009-2012 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. Partial data were submitted for 2013 where MEDITS survey was carried on only in Northern Aegean area.
- Italy did not submit data from GSA 17 for the period 1994-2001.

MEDITS TB

- Greece did not submit data during the years 2002, 2007 and 2009-2011 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. Partial data were submitted for 2013 where MEDITS survey was carried on only in Northern Aegean area.
- Italy did not submit data from GSA 17 for the period 1994-2001.

MEDITS TC

- Greece did not submit data during the years 2002, 2007 and 2009-2011 due to no realization of any DCF tasks. Partial data were submitted for 2013 where MEDITS survey was carried on only in Northern Aegean area.
- Cyprus submitted partial data during 2005 (first year of MEDITS survey)
- Italy did not submit data from GSA 17 1994-2001.

Data quality issues by member state

A summary of the main data gaps is presented below.

General comments

- Data for French geographical subarea GSA 8 - Corsica are completely lacking.
- Effort and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent for many combinations of area-gear.

Italy (ITA)

- In general Italian fisheries data lack the years before 2004 for the catch data, before 2003 for the effort data and before 2008 for the abundance and biomass data.
- Discard data are as a rule fragmented and completely absent for years 2007-2008
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in many years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all GSA11 - Sardinia data suffer from various inconsistencies. DCF data collected in GSA 11 has been highly problematic in the past years as widely documented in STECF EWG Med reports. During STECF EWG 14-19, the working group concluded that there will no further attempts of performing stock assessment in GSA 11 until there is a full revision of the data (catch, discards and surveys) as in current state it presents major problems and inconsistencies.
- MEDITS data appear complete with the exception of GSA 17 where the time series submitted to JRC starts in 2002 and not in 1994. This is a matter of concern that is not facilitating stock assessment of stocks in this area.

Spain (ESP)

- Spain has submitted all data after the official deadline of 9th June 2014
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in many years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all
- The numbers of fish for Sardine in GSA 6 and 1 derived from MEDIAS (Abundance table) in 2012 and 2013 appears to be orders of magnitude higher than older years, this is most likely an error and data will need to be corrected.
- MEDITS data appear complete

France (FRA)

- Complete absence of fisheries data for GSA 8
- No effort data before 2012, none from GSA 8
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in many years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all
- Only 5 species are declared in Discards data and only 11 species in the Catch data
- MEDITS data appear complete

Slovenia (SVN)

- Effort data initially uploaded for 2014 Data Call (and all previous Data Calls) was incorrect and extremely high. New correct version was uploaded after the deadline.
- Catches (Landings, Discards) during the last two years (2012-2013) show a dramatic decline (70-80%)
- Hydroacoustic survey data files consist of the MEDITS demersal survey data
- MEDITS data appear complete

Malta (MLT)

- No discard data for years 2005-2008, 2013
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in some years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all
- MEDITS data appear complete

Cyprus (CYP)

- No effort data for 2013. Effort is declared for many GSA's outside the Cypriot GSA25. However, no catches are declared outside GSA25.
- Landings for some target species are given only in tons without any information by length class
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in some years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all
- MEDITS data appear complete

Greece (GRC)

- No data for 2009-2012; data only for last quarter in 2013
- Discard data include only 2013
- Landings data before 2013 include only 6 species.
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in some years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all
- MEDITS data appear complete, except during the years 2002, 2007 and 2009-2011 when the survey was not performed.

Croatia (HRV)

- DCF initiated in 2013; as a result data were available for 2013 only (Effort: 2012-2013)
- Catch/Landings data include only 9 species.
- Effort data and Catch data (Landings, Discards) are inconsistent: large effort values in some years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all
- Officially submitted sardine landings data was not used during the STECF EWG 14-17; experts identified them as incorrect and used their own 'correct' data
- MEDITS data only for 2013 (the survey is conducted ,since 1994 in GSA 17 but Croatia entered the EU in 2013 data were not sent to JRC)

Bulgaria (BUL)

- Effort submitted for 2013 is extremely low
- Catch at Age (Table A) and Catch at Length (Table B) data are missing for all species submitted. Only total landings were provided.
- Landings for Anchovy, Striped red mullet and Rapa whelk are missing or are questionable
- Survey data for 2013 was not submitted since surveys were not performed, data from prior years was not sent. Technically not resending the data is like retracting the time series submitted in 2013.

Romania (ROM)

- TBB- Beam trawl effort is reported for the first time; it now corresponds to 50% of total fishing effort in Romania

Detailed data quality issues

Fisheries Data

An exploration of the submitted datasets revealed some issues requiring further investigation.

Data concerning catches (catch at age, landings at age, discards at age, landings at length, discards at length) follow a general pattern for almost all geographical subareas (Fig. 2.4.1.1): after the modification of the data collection scheme from DCR (2002-2008) to DCF (2009-2013) the number of species reported increased dramatically. As a rule, fewer species have catch at age information compared to catch at length.

Also noticeable is the drop in the number of discarded species reported in most of the Italian areas after 2011 (Fig 2.4.1.1. top right).

The large inconsistencies in the catch data can be more easily identified when checked against the corresponding effort data: large effort values in some years-areas-gears are accompanied by very low or no catches at all. A summarized description of the identified inconsistencies is portrayed in Table 2.4.1.1.

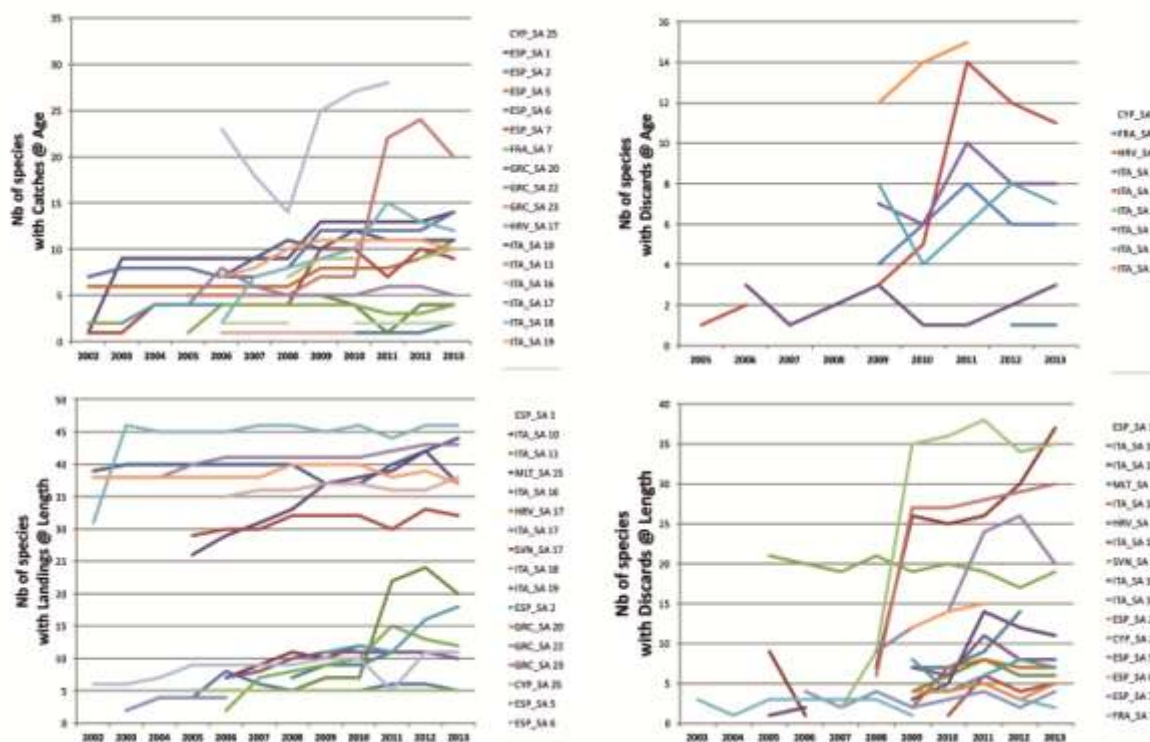


Fig. 2.4.1.1 Annual fluctuation of the number of species reported by geographical subarea in the 'Catch', 'Landings' and 'Discard' files.

Table 2.4.1.1. Inconsistencies identified between the catch and effort data submissions.

Country/Area	Gear/Fishery	Issue
Croatia/SA17	LLS	Large effort in LLS no demersal catches reported
Cyprus/SA25	PS	PS Effort declared only in 2008 PS catch declared only in 2005
	GNS & LLD	No effort data for GNS & LLD Catch data reported
Malta/SA15	LHM & LTL	Effort in 2006-2007 explodes (>10 x average) catches reported only in 2013
Spain/SA1,2,5,6,7	FPO	Effort more or less constant landings have tripled in the same period
	SV	Effort data reported no catches
	GTR-GNS	Effort more or less constant landings have tripled in the same period
	LHM	Significant effort reported Landings reported and only in 2013
	LLS	Very large effort reported relatively low catches
Greece/SA20,22,23	FPO-GTR-GNS	No effort data before 2013 Landings reported
France/SA7	all	No effort before 2012 Landings reported
Italy/SA10-18-19	FPO-PS-DRB	Effort reported no catch reported for DRB in areas 10-18; for PS in area 18; for FPO in area 19
Italy/SA17	GTR-DRB-FPO	Effort reported no catch reported
Italy/SA11	GNS-GTR-LLS	Large effort reported low or not at all catches reported
Italy/SA9	LLS	Dramatic drop in effort after 2008 no catches reported
Slovenia/SA17	PTM	No effort after 2012 no catches after 2012

Survey data

Annual trends of MEDITS hauls conducted through time can be seen on Fig. 2.4.2.1 Notable is the great fluctuation of hauls in some areas, taking into account that this is a standardized survey with strict protocols regarding annual sampling effort.

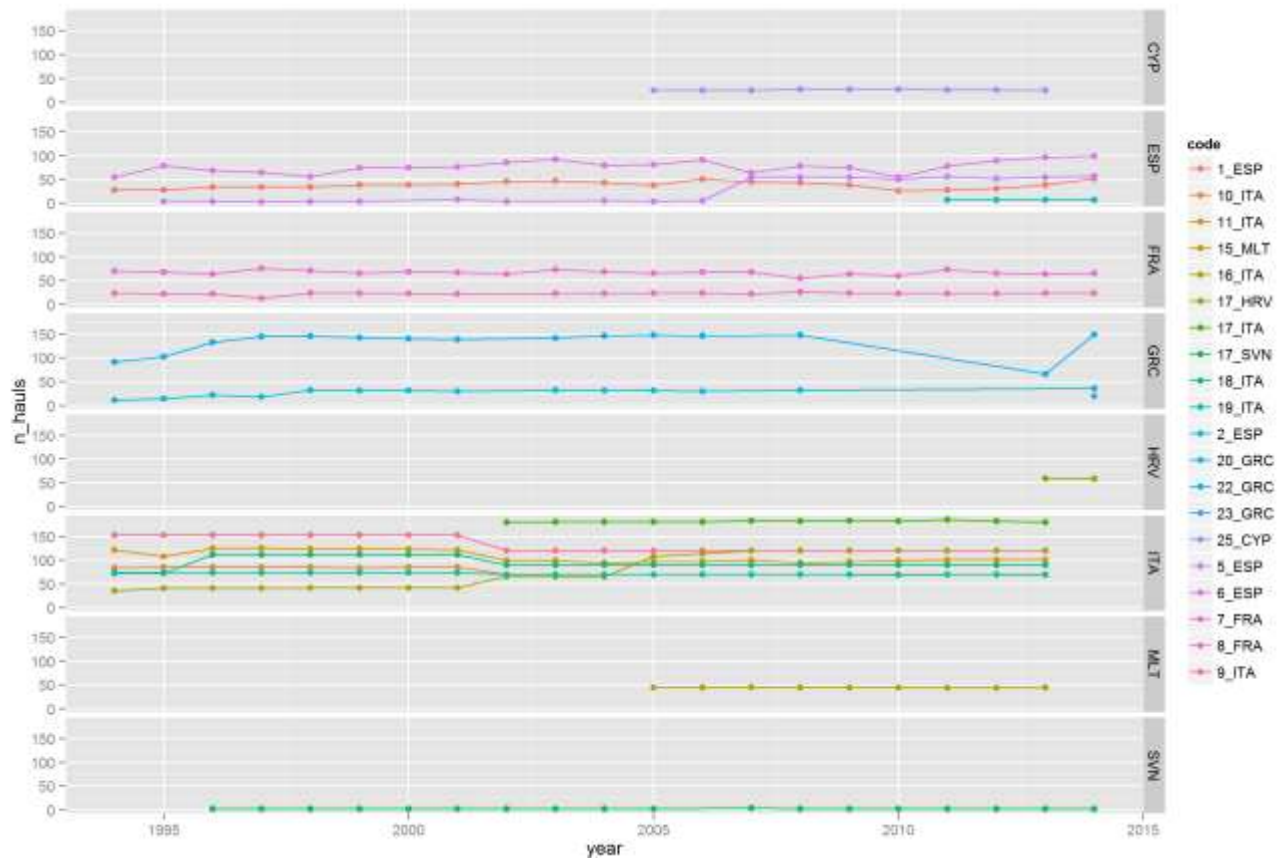


Figure 2.4.2.1 Annual trends of MEDITS hauls from the 2014 DCF data call

The trends of number of species reported (Fig. 2.4.2.2) and number of species for which length was obtained ((Fig. 2.4.2.3) did not show large variability, however some areas require attention to be drawn on (e.g.: number of species reported - France and Italy; number of species for which length was obtained - Greece).

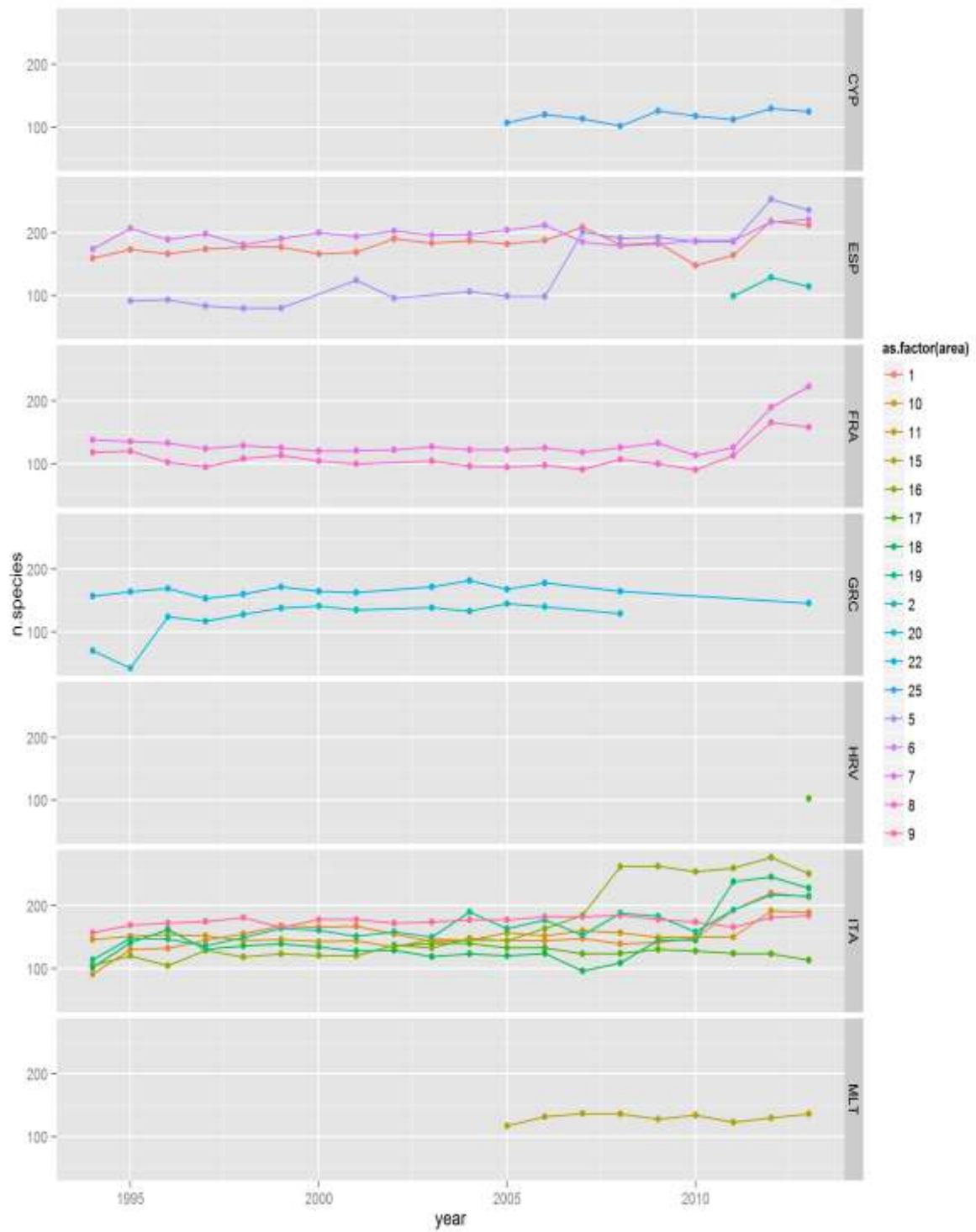


Figure 2.4.2.2 Annual trends of number of species reported in the MEDITS survey (from MEDITS TB file) from the 2014 DCF data call

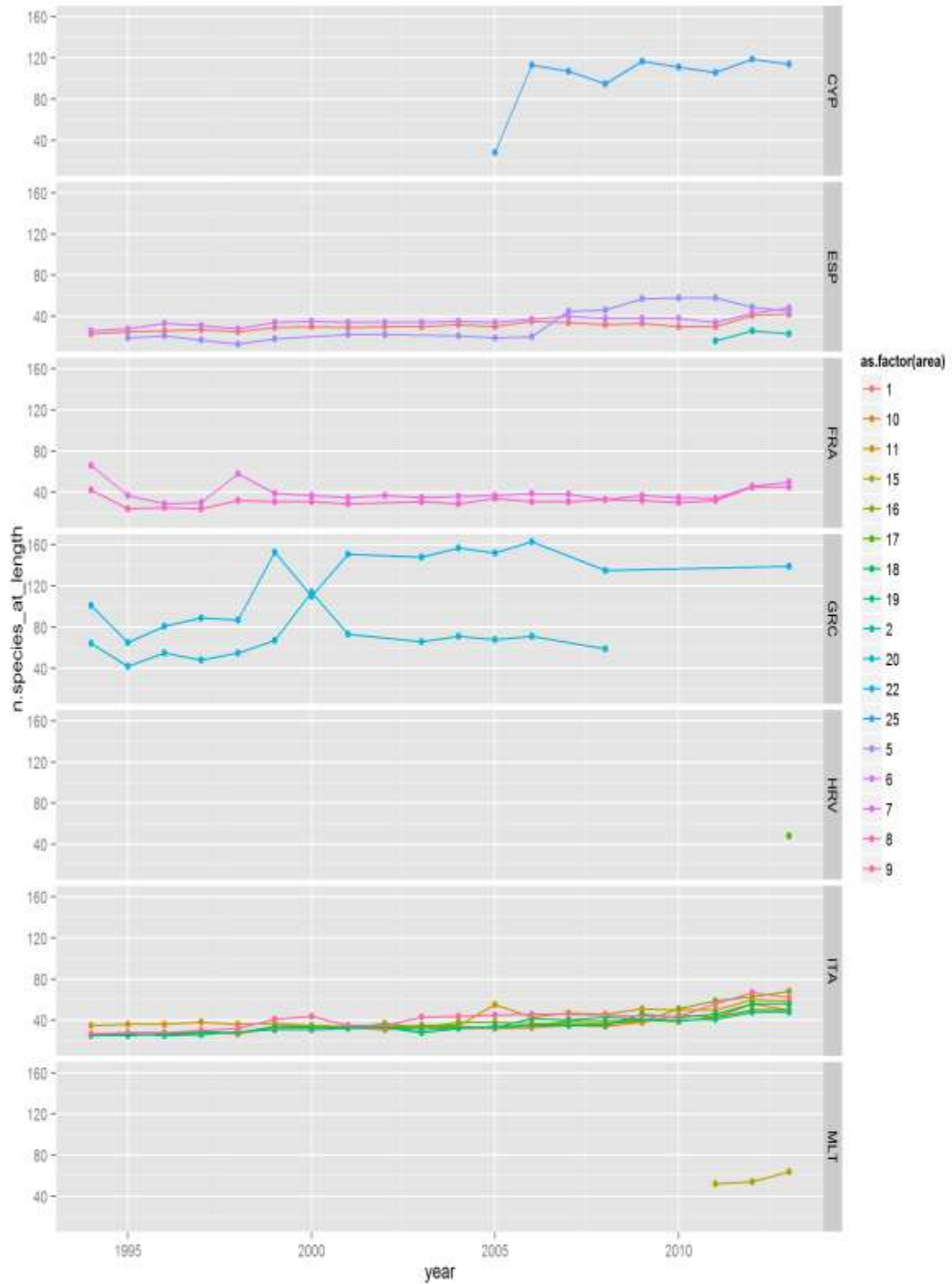


Figure 2.4.2.3. Annual trends of number of species for which length was obtained in the MEDITS survey (MEDITS TC file) from the 2014 DCF data call

Based on the recently developed SQL routines in the MEDITS Postgres database of JRC to do cross table consistency tests (on TA, TB and TC tables), a number of quality check reports (number of erroneous records by year) were identified for the data call of 2014. These are displayed as the total number of inconsistent errors by area (Table 2.4.2.1). Detailed error reports can be provided by JRC Data Collection Team. The SQL quality checks follow the philosophy and naming convention of the RoME routines developed for checking MEDITS data in R language (<http://www.sibm.it/MEDITS%202011/docs/MEDITS%20MCM%202012%20report%20-%20Final.pdf>).

Table 2.4.2.1 Inconsistent records in the MEDITS file as submitted in the 2014 Data Call

Check name	Check description	Area	Country	# erroneous records
check_zero_vert_open_valid_ta_o	Check in case of valid records if vertical_opening is zero	1	ESP	5
rome_bridles_len_mean_depth_ta_o	Check if the value of bridles length is consistent according to the mean depth	1	ESP	233
		2	ESP	16
		5	ESP	133
		6	ESP	180
		7	FRA	79
		8	FRA	78
		9	ITA	52
		10	ITA	81
		11	ITA	37
		15	MLT	142
		16	ITA	498
		17	ITA	484
		18	ITA	283
		20	GRC	65
22	GRC	515		
25	CYP	191		
rome_check_haul_coord_distance_ta_o	Check consistency of the hauls coordinates with the distance (adjusted to 100% difference)	1	ESP	6
		5	ESP	1
		6	ESP	15
		7	FRA	1
		9	ITA	16
		10	ITA	1
		11	ITA	12
		17	HRV	8
		17	ITA	2
		17	SVN	5
		18	ITA	3
		19	ITA	5
		20	GRC	36
		22	GRC	76
23	GRC	1		
25	CYP	5		
rome_consistency_wght_frac_tc_tot_wght_tb_o	Check consistency between WEIGHT_OF_THE_FRACTION in TC and TOTAL_WEIGHT_IN_HAUL in TB	1	ESP	22
		5	ESP	5
		6	ESP	49
		7	FRA	37
		8	FRA	14
		9	ITA	8
		10	ITA	5
		11	ITA	67
		15	MLT	8
		16	ITA	63
		17	HRV	1
		18	ITA	5
		19	ITA	3
		20	GRC	2
22	GRC	674		
25	CYP	2		
rome_consistency_zero_weight_tot_number_tb_o	Check consistency between not null weight and not null total number	1	ESP	74
		2	ESP	14
		5	ESP	133

		6	ESP	189
		7	FRA	141
		8	FRA	21
		9	ITA	1
		10	ITA	38
		11	ITA	119
		16	ITA	219
		17	ITA	2
		18	ITA	57
		19	ITA	51
		20	GRC	3
		22	GRC	33
rome_diff_start_depth_hauling_depth_ta_o	Check if that difference between start depth and end depth is not greater than 20%	1	ESP	4
		5	ESP	2
		6	ESP	2
		7	FRA	1
		8	FRA	8
		9	ITA	4
		10	ITA	56
		11	ITA	32
		15	MLT	17
		16	ITA	67
		17	HRV	2
		17	ITA	23
		18	ITA	24
		19	ITA	4
		20	GRC	27
		22	GRC	47
		25	CYP	4
rome_duration_consistency_ta_o	Check consistency among duration start time and end time of the haul in TA	11	ITA	97
		17	SVN	3
		18	ITA	1
		22	GRC	10
rome_duration_distance_consistency_ta_o	Check between duration of the haul and distance (tolerance of 15%)	1	ESP	60
		2	ESP	1
		5	ESP	13
		6	ESP	85
		7	FRA	31
		8	FRA	14
		9	ITA	251
		10	ITA	36
		11	ITA	626
		15	MLT	15
		16	ITA	12
		17	HRV	1
		17	ITA	90
		17	SVN	3
		18	ITA	16
		19	ITA	4
		20	GRC	111
		22	GRC	368
		25	CYP	7
rome_hauls_from_ta_in_tb_o	Check if all the hauls in TA are in TB	1	ESP	1
		5	ESP	2
		6	ESP	4
		20	GRC	38
		22	GRC	2
		23	GRC	20
		1	ESP	2
		5	ESP	3
		6	ESP	3
		7	FRA	1
		8	FRA	1
		9	ITA	3
		10	ITA	3
		15	MLT	271
		16	ITA	1
		17	HRV	1
		17	ITA	1
		18	ITA	3
		19	ITA	10
		20	GRC	38
		22	GRC	4
		23	GRC	7
rome_hauls_from_tb_in_ta_o	Check if all the hauls in TB are in TA	1	ESP	2
		5	ESP	3
		7	FRA	1
		11	ITA	1
		17	ITA	2
		19	ITA	1
		20	GRC	1
		22	GRC	3

		1	ESP	3
		5	ESP	3
		7	FRA	4
		8	FRA	7
		9	ITA	3
		10	ITA	3
		15	MLT	272
		16	ITA	1
		17	HRV	1
		17	ITA	3
		18	ITA	3
		19	ITA	10
		22	GRC	2
rome_hauls_from_tc_in_ta_o	Check if all the hauls in TC are in TA	5	ESP	2
		11	ITA	1
		17	ITA	1
		19	ITA	1
		20	GRC	1
		22	GRC	3
		6	ESP	1
		23	GRC	13
rome_num_sex_eq_sum_nb_length_sex_tc_o	Internal check in TC (the number per sex must be equal to the sum of nb per length per sex)	1	ESP	132
		5	ESP	164
		6	ESP	232
		7	FRA	13
		8	FRA	8
		10	ITA	1
		11	ITA	2
		15	MLT	5
		16	ITA	182
		17	ITA	11
		18	ITA	3
		19	ITA	4
		20	GRC	44
		22	GRC	162
		23	GRC	5
		25	CYP	3
rome_num_sex_raising_tb_o	Check if in case of sub-sampling in TC the number per sex in TB is raised correctly	1	ESP	196
		2	ESP	8
		5	ESP	251
		6	ESP	461
		7	FRA	83
		8	FRA	20
		9	ITA	61
		11	ITA	19
		15	MLT	50
		16	ITA	188
		17	HRV	6
		17	ITA	5
		17	SVN	6
		19	ITA	1073
		20	GRC	33
		22	GRC	716
		25	CYP	5
rome_shooting_depth_hauling_depth_same_stratum_ta_o	Start depth and end depth of each haul should be in the same stratum	1	ESP	29
		2	ESP	3
		5	ESP	12
		6	ESP	20
		7	FRA	79
		8	FRA	49
		9	ITA	1
		10	ITA	23
		11	ITA	89
		15	MLT	19
		16	ITA	50
		17	HRV	9
		17	ITA	51
		18	ITA	62
		19	ITA	4
		20	GRC	19
		22	GRC	87
		25	CYP	2
rome_shooting_eq_hauling_quadrant_o	Check if the haul start in the same quadrant	1	ESP	2
		6	ESP	6
rome_species_from_tc_in_tb_o	Check if all the species in tc are in tb	1	ESP	16
		5	ESP	6
		6	ESP	45
		8	FRA	1
		15	MLT	1
		16	ITA	1

		22	GRC	1
		23	GRC	13
		25	CYP	14
rome_target_species_from _tb_in_tc_o	Check if all the target species in tb are in tc	1	ESP	101
		2	ESP	14
		5	ESP	96
		6	ESP	241
		7	FRA	185
		8	FRA	48
		9	ITA	402
		10	ITA	75
		11	ITA	270
		15	MLT	299
		16	ITA	71
		17	HRV	50
		17	ITA	223
		17	SVN	5
		18	ITA	282
		19	ITA	106
		20	GRC	68
rome_tot_num_num_per_s ex_tb_o	Check if in TB NB_TOTAL equals NB_F+NB_M+NB_I	22	GRC	239
		1	ESP	4
		6	ESP	4
		7	FRA	8
		8	FRA	1
		9	ITA	1
		11	ITA	3
		15	MLT	43
		16	ITA	717
		17	HRV	1
25	CYP	1		

TE table

The most significant problem arisen during the 2014 Data Call, regarding the MEDITS data submissions, was the insufficient structure design of TE table (biological parameters at individual level).

The problem was identified during the uploading process by member states. JRC database indicated errors related to duplicate rows of data, even when the case was not so.

This error occurred whenever:

1) two or more specimen of the same species have been sampled during the same haul, have the same individual_weight, belong to the same length_class, and no age readings were collected.

or

2) two or more specimen of the same species have been sampled during the same haul, have the same individual_weight, belong to the same length_class, and have the same age estimate.

The last field in the MEDITS_TE table ("OTOLITH_CODE") when filled in with a value (as described in the MEDITS manual 2013 v.7) solves this issue, but this is applied to very few species. In general, when no age readings were available, this field is usually left blank and generated a "duplicate record" error during upload to JRC facilities.

This potential confounding stems from the lack of a column indicating the individual fish identity which would indicate whether two rows refer to the same fish or to two or more different ones. The issue was communicated to the MEDITS coordinator and needs to be addressed at MEDITS coordination level.

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