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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Group

Sixth Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS) and Twenty-seventh meeting of the Fisheries Subject Group (FS)

Rome, Italy, 15-16 May 2019

EUROSTAT activities report to CWP

Author: EUROSTAT

Eurostat (as part of the European Commission) continues to collect data on nominal catches and landings of fishery products statistics, aquaculture statistics (all of them for EU-28, Norway and Iceland)¹, and to produce fishing fleet statistics from EU-level administrative register of fishing vessels and fishing fleet statistics from Norway and Iceland.

Since the last session, Eurostat has developed 2 handbooks, one for [aquaculture statistics](#) and another one on [fisheries \(catches and landings\)](#).

The last Fisheries Statistics Working Group was held at Eurostat on 24 and 25th of October 2018 ([minutes](#)). FAO, OECD and ICES attended, and on the occasion, the direct transmission from Eurostat to FAO, OECD and ICES was followed up. Landings is already synchronized with OECD and catches with ICES. Issues with aquaculture data transmission to FAO remain mainly due to timeliness (Eurostat collects the data too late for FAO needs) and confidentiality, as with the current legal agreements between FAO and Eurostat, Eurostat cannot share confidential information, which puts FAO in the need to find the data from other sources and having to estimate the gaps.

¹ Nominal catches are collected for fishing regions:

21	Atlantic, Northwest	57	Indian Ocean, Eastern
27	Atlantic, Northeast	58	Antarctic, Indian Ocean
31	Atlantic, Western Central	71	Pacific, Western Central
34	Atlantic, Eastern Central	77	Pacific, Eastern Central
37	Mediterranean and Black Sea	81	Pacific, Southwest
41	Atlantic, Southwest	87	Pacific, Southeast
47	Atlantic, Southeast	88	Antarctic, Pacific
51	Indian Ocean, Western	90	Antarctic – Total

Nominal catches data collection is based on regulations 216/2009, 217/2009 and 218/2009.

Statistics on landings on fishery products are collected under regulation 1921/2006, and aquaculture statistics from regulation 762/2008.

In the Working Group data issues were identified related to definition of population in aquaculture and different country practices (for example considering whether the destination of the production is for human consumption or not in order to include aquaculture farms in the population). Also on algae aquaculture is where the biggest differences in total production reside. Statistics on product value also suffers from different practices.

Confidential data keeps a major problem within the current legal framework. In addition to aquaculture (where the problem is major), it is starting to happen as well in nominal catches statistics. The impossibility of reaching an agreement with countries on a confidentiality charter makes confidentiality propagate from individual data to aggregates due to risk of secondary identification. Eurostat is currently exploring alternatives that would ensure the publication of some EU aggregates.

Inside the European Commission, Eurostat is coordinating a project on Evaluation of European Fisheries Statistics (EFS) regulations, comprising all the legal acts mentioned before as the scope of the evaluation, while other data collections are considered as contextual information (Data Collection Framework, Control Regulation). This project is part of European Commission's [REFIT agenda](#), and it is led by Eurostat and executed in very close cooperation with DG MARE. It is at its final stages; at this moment, different policy options are being drafted, and in the second half of the year those different options will be analysed in order to decide a way forward. The options range from continuing producing EFS as business as usual, to draw a new framework regulation or even stop producing EFS. The findings so far in the project are:

- European Fisheries Statistics are not aligned with user needs anymore, especially those of Common Fisheries Policy; this misalignment happens because of lack of information from several angles, mainly coverage and inclusion of dimensions such as gear, tonnage and effort, and in the case of aquaculture economic aspects.
- The Common Fisheries Policy takes responsibility to collect and send the data needed to RFMOs where EU participates as a contracting party; the exception to this is GFCM who keeps collecting data directly from EU Member Countries.
- Small scale fisheries remains a major source for data discrepancies and a major preoccupation for countries with a big small scale fishing fleet like Greece or Italy.
- At a very detailed technical level, the existence of electronic logbooks has changed the picture on production of fishery statistics, opening new opportunities but also creating new needs for harmonisation potentially allowing a multi-purpose data collection.

Production of SDG14 indicators is coordinated by Eurostat; most of the data used for producing the indicators is maintained by the European Environment Agency (EEA). EU SDG14 consists of 5 indicators:

- Surface of marine sites designated under Natura 2000
- Estimated trends in fish stock biomass
- Assessed fish stocks exceeding fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield (FMSY)
- Seawater bathing sites with excellent water quality
- Mean ocean acidity: From the 2019 SDG Monitoring Report onwards (to be published end of June), this indicator will be based on Copernicus data provided under the Marine Environment Monitoring Service of the European Earth Observation Programme.

EU SDG Monitoring package (including the report, the brochure and the digital publication) is planned to be published end of June 2019. A review of the 2019 indicator set is planned to take place in early autumn 2019.

There are 2 indicators put on hold, where further work is need to improve scope, frequency and timeliness of data, in order for the indicators to be included in the EU SDG indicator set in the case data would meet quality requirements, frequency and timeliness. These are:

- Marine protected areas in the EU. This indicator is considered as potential replacement of the indicator “Surface of marine sites designated under NATURA 2000”

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- Nutrients in transitional, coastal and marine waters. This indicator is considered as potential enlargement of monitoring progress towards SDG 14. Alternatively, indicator such as "Environmental status of marine waters" might be considered

-----Here are the main activities of
The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that relevant to CWP

- 1- Two new official species added to ASFIS replacing temporary codes for:
 - EZT - *Etmopterus viator* – Blue eye lantern shark
 - RZZ - *Somniosus antarcticus* – Southern sleeper shark
- 2- Actively developing an automated data load process for catch and effort data submitted to the Secretariat by CCAMLR members.

Data typically submitted as XL files

Data is high resolution - supplied as haul by haul
- 3- Rules are applied consistently to the data being loaded – (data types, range checks, comparisons with other data sources)
- 4- Detailed metadata on the structure of the databases and of the DQ rules are in the process of being published
- 5- Data quality reports provided to submitters resulting in improved source data for subsequent fishery statistics
- 6- Improvement the availability of publicly available data (aggregated/STALANT) via the CCAMLR statistical bulletin according to FAIR principles.