

Commercial Fisheries Data

Data policy for the Regional Fisheries Database (RDB) hosted by ICES

28 September 2016



Goal

The main aim of the RDB-Fishframe is to:

Ensure that data can be made available for the coordination of regional fisheries data sampling plans, to serve and facilitate the production of fisheries management advice and status reports, and to increase the awareness of data collected under DCF/DC-MAP and the overall usage of these data

The goal of this policy is to clearly state the conditions for data submission, data access and usage rights.

Scope

For the European Union Member States, the basis for data policy rules is the provisions of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 and (EC) No. 2016/1251 of 12 July 2016. For non-EU countries, the basis for data policy rules is in accordance with the limitations on data use specified by each country.

This policy applies to all providers and users of data uploaded into RDB-FishFrame hosted and maintained by ICES, and to ICES activities for providing access to data.

Access rights

According to Articles 18 and 20 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 199/2008, Member States (MS) shall make detailed and aggregated data available to end users¹ to support scientific analysis in three different cases:

- a) As a basis for advice to fisheries management
- b) in the interest of public debate and stakeholder participation in policy development and
- c) for scientific publication.

Council Regulation (EC) No. 199/2008 defines:

- i) **Detailed data** as data based on primary data in a form that does not allow natural persons or legal entities to be identified directly or indirectly
- ii) **Aggregated data** as the output resulting from summarising the primary or detailed data for specific analytical purposes

For case (a) fisheries management:

Pre-approved uses

- i) MS grant permission for **aggregated** data to be used by ICES in the provision of scientific advice to the European Commission and its partners as per Article 18.1a of Council regulation (EC) No. 199/2008. A list of the ICES groups

¹ According to Council Regulation (EC) No. 199/2008, end users are defined as bodies with a research or management interest in the scientific analysis of data in the fisheries sector.

that require access to aggregated data will be provided to the RCM/RCG's by **01 DEC** each year.

- ii) MS grant permission for **detailed** data to be used by the RCM/RCG for the coordination of establishing regional fisheries data sampling plans.

Other uses

- iii) An ICES entity on the approved list in (i), requiring **detailed** data from the RDB-FishFrame, via the RDB host can request access in writing to each MS². The MS will be obliged to respond within one month from request.
- iv) An ICES entity, not on the approved list in (i), requiring **detailed** or **aggregated** data from the RDB-FishFrame, via the RDB host can request access in writing to each MS². The MS will be obliged to respond within one month from request.

In uses (iii) and (iv) where access is requested to the MS that owns the data. If the request is not answered within one month, the request is seen as rejected. The RDB host will notify the requestor and the European Commission about the outcome of such requests.

For case (b) public debate and (c) scientific publication:

It is the decision of each MS on whether to use RDB-FishFrame to facilitate these requests. Each MS shall ensure that the data is provided to end-users within two months from the receipt of the request for these data. Furthermore, in case of c) MS have the right, under specific circumstances, to withhold data transmission to end users for a period of three years following the date of collection of the data.

In cases (a), (b) and (c) an **inventory**, based on MS public reports, of data housed in the RDB is available without restriction and on the RDB website.

Access Roles

Based on the access granted in Access rights, users are given access to RDB-FishFrame according to a role based matrix. For simplification and as guidance, the version presented below is shown with fewer roles and access types than are available in the actual role matrix that controls access in RDB. All roles are managed by password controlled login, with the exception of 'Public' where no login is granted/required.

² The focal point in EU MS being National Correspondents in consultation with individual countries or autonomous data providers within member states. For non EU countries the ICES delegate is considered the focal point.

	National Responsible	Detailed Data Reader	Aggregated Data Reader	Public
Manage	X			
Process/estimate	X	(X)		
Read/Download data				
- Detailed data	X	X		
- Aggregated data	X	X	X	
- Inventory	X	X	X	X

Security

RDB Fishframe is hosted on a secure server and restricted to persons who have a user name and a password, a user name is for the sole use of that individual. Login is through a website secured with HTTPS protocol.

Data ownership

The national data in RDB-FishFrame is owned by the individual countries.

Policy for Data Providers

Although the ICES Data Centre may perform some data quality/integrity control, the data providers always retain complete responsibility for data quality.

When changes (new data and revisions) are made in the data source (the national database containing the primary data) countries are responsible to in a timely manner update and process their own data in the RDB.

It is the responsibility of the data provider to make sure that data that cannot be identified to any individual vessel or legal entity or at a resolution violating confidentiality rules³.

Policy for Use of Data

ICES, as the host and maintainer of the RDB, will make data available in a timely way according to the defined **Access rights**

- Correct and appropriate data interpretation is solely the responsibility of data users.
- Data sources (individual data providers) must be duly acknowledged.
- Data Users are obliged to inform ICES of any suspected problems in the data.
- Data Users must respect any and all restrictions on the use or reproduction of data such as restrictions on use for commercial purposes

Data Quality

On the basis of the recommendations made by the SCRDB, ICES develops and applies quality assurance procedures as appropriate and feasible, and in cooperation with data providers

³ The principles of personal data protection, as referred to in paragraph (16) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 are followed

and other organizations (e.g. Eurostat). ICES may also receive reports on potentially erroneous data. ICES will inform data providers of relevant quality issues.

Management of the RDB-FishFrame

The RDB-FishFrame is hosted by ICES and is managed by a steering committee (SCRDB). The steering committee is responsible for the technical governance, strategic planning, operational issues and estimates of costs. The steering committee is composed of the host, the European Commission and members appointed by the Regional Coordination Meetings (RCM/RCG). The SCRDB is also open for observers from countries, including non EU countries, that are presently not participating in the RDB but that want to gain knowledge. The RCM/RCG's are responsible for the content governance of the RDB. This means that they decide on type of data to be included in the RDB, prioritize and develop road maps for data uploads as well as identify areas for development. The hosting and maintenance of the RDB is funded through the MoU between the European Commission and ICES, additional funding has been provided directly by ICES.

DISCLAIMER

Correct and appropriate data interpretation is solely the responsibility of data users. Data Users must not expressly or otherwise imply ICES substantiation of their work, results, conclusions and/or recommendations.

Whilst the data have been quality controlled by the supplying institutes, there are inherent flaws in gathering the information and care should be taken in analysing the data for purposes that the data were not primarily intended for. Thus users are urged to treat the data with caution.

The quality of the data collated in the RDB is overseen by the Steering Committee of the Regional DataBase (SCRDB), which has membership from the RCM/RCG's. If the user has any queries on the validity of the data, to report errors, or the conclusions to be drawn from the analysis they have undertaken, please contact RDBsupport@ices.dk. If the query is about a specific national dataset then the user may wish to contact the National Focal Point for Fisheries data collection (<http://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/national-correspondent>).