

Commercial Fisheries Data

Data policy for the Regional Database (RDB) and Regional Database and Estimation System (RDBES)

Release: 05 December 2018

About this version: This policy is the 2nd version of the data policy. It was reviewed and updated by the Steering Committee of the Regional Fisheries Database (SCRDB) in 2017 taking into account changes in the EU regulations, inclusion of considerations for non-EU countries and clarifications on use and publication of data from the RDB and RDBES. The data policy has been agreed by Regional Coordination Groups (Baltic, North Atlantic, and North Sea) in 2018



Goal

The present Regional Database, and the new Regional Database and Estimation System are herein referred to as the RDBES. The Regulation (EU) 2017/1004¹ is hereafter referred to as the Data Collection Framework (DCF).

The main aim of the RDBES is to:

- 1) To ensure that data can be made available for the coordination of regional fisheries data sampling plans, including for the DCF Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs),
- 2) To provide a regional estimation system such that statistical estimates of quantities of interest can be produced from sample data,
- 3) To serve and facilitate the production of fisheries management advice and status reports,
- 4) To increase the awareness of fisheries data collected by the users of the RDBES 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. The database herein is the regional database referred to in Article 18(1) of the DCF.

Scope

For the European Union Member States, the basis for data policy rules is the provisions of the DCF, specifically Article 18(1) available in the annex 1.

For non-EU countries, the basis for data policy rules is in accordance with the limitations on data use specified by each country².

This policy applies to all providers and users of data uploaded into the RDBES, and to ICES activities for providing access to data.

Access rights

According to the DCF, provision on access rights and time frame are described under Articles 17(1), 17(3) and 17(4) provided in the annex 1 to this document.

The DCF 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

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast)

² In response to official data calls to the RDB

Data use for fisheries management:

Advice to Fisheries Management

- i) Countries grant permission for **aggregated** data, see Annex 2, to be used by ICES in the provision of scientific advice to the European Commission and other ICES clients of scientific advice. A list of the ICES groups that require access to aggregated data will be provided to the RCG's and ACOM members by **01 DEC** each year.
- ii) EU Member States (MS) grant permission for **detailed** data to be used by the RCG's for the purposes of Article 9 of the DCF.
- iii) An ICES entity on the approved list in (i), requiring **detailed** data from the RDBES, via the RDBES host can request access in writing to each country and EU MS³. The EU MS will be obliged to respond within two months from the date of the request.

Other uses

- iv) An entity requiring **detailed** or **aggregated** data from the RDBES, can request access in writing to each Country. The EU MS will be obliged to respond within two months from the date of the request.

For requests related to scientific publication, for EU MS Article 17(7) of the DCF applies.

Persons from the European Commission have full access to, or can receive, EU countries' data from the RDB/RDBES.

An **inventory**, based on MS public reports, of data housed in the RDBES is available without restriction and on the RDBES website.

Access Roles

Based on the access granted in Access rights, users are given access to RDBES 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 RDBES. All roles are managed by password controlled login, with the exception of 'Public' where no login is granted/required.

³ 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

Governance of the RDBES

The RDBES is hosted by ICES and is managed by a steering committee (SCRDBES).

Security

RDBES 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.

The RDBES follows the principles of personal data protection, as referred to in Article 2 of the DCF.

Data ownership

The national data in RDBES 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 processing and data quality, according to Articles 14 and 16 of the DCF.

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 RDBES.

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 rules⁴.

Policy for Use of Data

ICES, as the host and maintainer of the RDBES, 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

⁴ The principles of personal data protection, as referred to in Article 17(2) in Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.

Data can be shown in reports as described in Annex 2

Data Quality

According to Articles 14(1) of the DCF Member States are responsible for the quality and completeness of the primary data collected under national work plans, and for the detailed and aggregated data derived therefrom which are transmitted to end-users of scientific data. For non-EU countries, with reference to the ICES Data policy, data providers are responsible for the quality and completeness of data delivered to ICES.

On the basis of the recommendations made by the SCRDBES, ICES develops and applies quality assurance procedures as appropriate and feasible, and in cooperation with data providers and other organizations. ICES may also receive reports on potentially erroneous data. ICES will inform data providers of relevant quality issues.

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.

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>) or ACOM member for non-EU countries (<http://ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/ACOM.aspx>).

Annex 1: Relevant articles from “Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008”

Article 2 (Data protection): Where relevant, the processing, management and use of data collected under this Regulation shall comply with, and be without prejudice to, Directive 95/46/EC and Regulations (EC) No 45/2001 and (EC) No 223/2009.

Article 14(1): Member States shall be responsible for the quality and completeness of the primary data collected under national work plans, and for the detailed and aggregated data derived therefrom which are transmitted to end-users of scientific data

Article 17(1): EU Member States shall set up adequate processes and electronic technologies to ensure an effective application of Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and of this Regulation. They shall refrain from any unnecessary restrictions to the dissemination of detailed and aggregated data to end-users of scientific data and other interested parties.

Article 17(3): In the case of 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, which shall not be shorter than 1 month from the date of receipt of a request for those data.

Article 17(4): In the case of requests other than those referred to in paragraph 3, Member States shall ensure that the relevant data are updated and made available to the relevant end-users of scientific data and other interested parties within a reasonable period of time. Within 2 months from the date of receipt of the request, the Member States shall inform the requesting party of the duration of such time, which shall be proportionate to the scope of the request, and of the possible need of additional processing of the data requested.

Article 17(7): Where detailed data are requested for scientific publication, Member States may, in order to protect the professional interests of data collectors designated by the body in charge of the implementation of the national work plan, require that the publication of data be delayed by 3 years from the date to which the data refer. Member States shall inform the end-users of scientific data and the Commission of any such decision and of the reasons therefor.

Article 18(1): With a view to reducing costs and facilitating access to detailed and aggregated data for end-users of scientific data and other interested parties, Member States, the Commission, scientific advisory bodies and any relevant end-users of scientific data shall cooperate to develop compatible data storage and exchange systems, taking into account the provisions of Directive 2007/2/EC. Those systems shall also facilitate dissemination of

information to other interested parties. Such systems may take the form of regional databases. Regional work plans referred to in Article 9(8) of this Regulation may serve as a basis for agreement on such systems.

Link to Regulation

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/dd3dc59f-557f-11e7-a5ca-01aa75ed71a1>

ANNEX 2 Use and Publication of data

Detailed and Aggregated data

According to the definitions in this Data Policy, which is taken from the EU Regulation 2017/1004, landing (CL) and effort data (CE) are considered aggregated data, and sample data (CS) are considered detailed data. The sample data (CS) will have to be aggregated to month and sub-division/unit to be considered aggregated.

Rules for use of data from the RDB

The data cannot be shared with other persons outside the specific RCG or specific ICES Expert Group and cannot be used for other purposes than within the specific RCG or specific ICES Expert Group. The data can be stored at the RCG's or ICES Expert Group's SharePoint but must be password protected, and the chair must control access to the password. All persons who have a version of the data must delete the data after the specific RCG or specific ICES Expert Group have finished its work.

Showing data in public reports

General Rule

Sample data (CS), landing data (CL) and effort data (CE) can always be shown when data are disaggregated at the following level:

Year	Quarter	Species	Metier level 4-6	Area ⁵
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Landings (CL) and Efforts (CE) specific rules

The data that will be publicly available through the RCGs or ICES Expert Groups reports must be aggregated to at least the following highest resolution level.

In the overall data there in general must be more than two different units in each variable to be able to aggregate over the variables (e.g. to aggregate by country the data must include at least 2 different countries). When showing landings and/or effort data in a public report the highest resolution is determined by selecting at least 4 out of the 7 following variables. Only one option/figure can be shown to ensure conclusions cannot be drawn from a combination of several figures:

Vessel flag country	Year	Month	Species	Metier level 4-6	Vessel length category	Statistical rectangle
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⁵ Subdivision or unit (FAO definition, <http://www.fao.org/fishery/area/Area27/en>)

The following are some examples of this rule

Examples:

Landings data can be plotted by species, statistical rectangles and year when data are aggregated over country, month, metier level 4-6 and vessel length category.

Effort data can be plotted by metier level 4-6, statistical rectangles and year when data are aggregated over country, month and vessel length category and species.

If it is needed to publish data at higher resolution the relevant National Correspondents have to be asked for approval.

Sample (CS) specific rules

The data that will be public available through the RCGs or ICES Expert Groups reports should be aggregated to the same level as the landings data.

The CS data holds information (auxiliary variables and obtained data) from sampled trips. **It is not allowed to publish CS data in a report in such a way that the individual catches from a given trip are shown.**

Data need to be aggregated before shown in tables or figures. In this context data covers both the data in the CS and data derived from the CS data e.g. estimated discard.

In the overall data there in general must be more than three different samples in each variable to be able to aggregate over the variables. When showing sample data in a public report the highest resolution is determined by selecting at least 3 out of the 9 following variables, and only one option/figure can be shown to ensure conclusions cannot be drawn from a combination of several figures:

Vessel flag country	Year	Month	Species	Metier level 4-6	Vessel length category	Vessel size category	Vessel power category	Statistical rectangle
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The following are some examples of this rule

Sampling example:

Sampling data can be plotted by species, statistical rectangles and year only when data are aggregated over country, month, metier level 4-6, vessel length category, vessel size category, vessel power category.

Map Plotting

Individual hauls (HH) holds information on the geographical positions from sampled fishing operations. It is sometimes valuable to show these positions (e.g. for QA purposes). If doing so only

meta data or auxiliary variables can be used in the plots - never the result of the actual sampling. When plotting maps a *maximum* of three of the following variables can be used.

Vessel flag country	Year	Month	Species	Metier level 4-6	Vessel length category	Vessel size category	Vessel power category	Position
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This rule does not apply if the amount of data in the map is so sparse that individual vessels or trips might be identified. It is the responsibility of the data user to ensure that maps do not plot data that comes from a small number of vessels or trips.

Example: It is allowed to plot the positions of fishing operations by year, species and countries as long as metiers, vessel size category, vessel power category, vessel length category and month are left out. If the data user wanted to include metiers instead then one of the other variables (year, species or country) would need to be left out

If it is needed to publish data at higher resolution the relevant National Correspondent have to be asked for approval.

Individual fish

Individual fish (CA) holds information on measurement from individual fish. It is always acceptable to show these as individual measurements.