

DCF national correspondents

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Subject: Revised 19/10/2015 data call for ICES benchmark Workshop of North Sea stocks

Dear Reader,

Be aware that the stock of witch flounder will not be benchmarked at WKNSEA and therefore there is no need to submit the data for that stocks by the data call deadline as requested previously. Please find enclosed a revised document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of this ICES data call for length or weight data for landings, discards, biological samples, and effort data for selected North Sea stocks, where the requested data for witch flounder has been marked accordingly throughout the data call.

In case of questions please contact the ICES Secretariat (advice@ices.dk and Scott.Large@ices.dk) for clarification.

Sincerely,



Anne Christine Brusendorff

CC: David Miller (WKNSEA chair)

Data call: Data submission for ICES benchmark of selected stocks under WGNSSK

Rationale

Together with the data already submitted by the ICES countries for the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) meetings in 2015 and previous, this data call supports the work to be made during the ICES Benchmark Workshop for North Sea stocks (WKNSEA).

What the requested information will be used for

The data will be used for exploratory analyses and stock assessment in the benchmark workshop. The end product of the benchmark workshop would be an agreed set of data and assessment methodology to be used in future update assessments to provide advice.

Geographical and temporal scope

Temporal scope for landings, discards, biological samples, and effort data is from 2002- 2014. Data are requested for saithe, dab, and ~~witch~~ (Table 1).

Table1: List of species

Species name	Code	Scientific name
saithe	<i>POK</i>	<i>Pollachius virens</i>
dab	<i>DAB</i>	<i>Limanda limanda</i>
witch	<i>WIT</i>	<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>

Geographical scope is found in Table 2.

Table 2. List of ICES areas for finfish

Area	Area code
Eastern English Channel	VIIId*
Skagerrak, Kattegat	IIIa**
North Sea	IV
West of Scotland	VI***

* Only for ~~witch~~ and dab.

** Skagerrak (IIIaN), Kattegat (IIIaS).

*** Only for saithe.

Outputs

The output of the benchmark workshop is to agree with specific data sets and stock assessment methodology for each stock to be used to provide fisheries management advice.

How to report data

Landings, discards, sample information and effort data from 2002 - 2014 should be imported into InterCatch **if not already imported**. Regarding the sample information; the number, mean weight and mean length at age or length should be imported. However, the number of length and age measurements should also be imported (including the fields: *SampledCatch*, *NumSamplesLngt*, *NumLngtMeas*, *NumSamplesAge*, *NumAgeMeas*) per year and quarter. Only age measurements from a given quarter and year should be included, not age measurements used to fill gaps in age length keys. Data submitters should check if all the data requested is available in InterCatch, and not only the landings. **Ensure that the format and metier/fleet definitions are exactly the same as described in Appendix 1-5. Also, countries which do not have commercial landings should report available/estimated discard data and sampling data if available!** For discard data, the data source should also be provided (e.g. "information from fishery", "expert judgment", "sampling", "self-sampling" etc.) using the SI comment field, field number 23 "InfoStockCordinator".

IMPORTANT:

- If discard data is unavailable, there should be no entry for discards. A value of "zero" should only be entered when zero discards have been observed.
- Discard survival rates should not be accounted for by the Country when uploading the data. If no landings and discards of a relevant stock took place, but there has been a fishery in a given stratum, please indicate to the respective stock coordinator and accessions@ices.dk that no data had to be submitted for the Country in question (see stock coordinators contacts in Table 1).
- If corrections are needed for data already previously submitted to WGNSSK, then update the data in InterCatch. In this case please inform Scott Large (Scott.Large@ices.dk) and the Advisory Department (Advice@ices.dk).

Additional data to report depending on the stock are described in the following:

Saithe in IV, IIIa and VI

- Any tagging data/information or genetic analysis available to differentiate stocks in the North Atlantic and exchange rates between them (any format). The files should be sent directly to accession@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_tagging".
- Maturity at age/length data which are not already included in *DATRAS*. (Proportion of mature individuals per age/length class per year and quarter). The information on which maturity stage key has been used should also be provided. The data file should be sent directly to accession@ices.dk. Maturity at age data based on commercial samplings can also be uploaded in InterCatch together with other age based information. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_maturity".
- Indices from national surveys that can be used to derive relative abundance indices (by age). The data file containing the index, as well as the associated information on the survey design and index calculations should be sent directly to accession@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_national surveys".
- National commercial CPUE indices that can be used to derive relative abundance and biomass trends (by age). Alternative standardized and non-standardized indices should also be submitted based on different effort units (e.g., kw-days, fishing hours, days at sea). The data file and associated information on the index calculations should be sent directly to accession@ices.dk. More alternative indices may need to be calculated during the benchmark preparation process. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_CPUE".

- Any data on natural mortality per age (e.g., from tagging studies). Information/data should be sent directly to accession@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_natural mortality".
- Recreational fishery data per year and quarter (and per age). The data file should be sent directly to accession@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_recreational".

Additional information to the extent possible:

- Access to logbook data to explore changes in exploitation pattern to be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_logbook".
- Currently, assessment uses catch weights from fishery as stock weights. Stock weights from fisheries-independent sources is needed, to be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_POK_[COUNTRY]_stock weights".
- If landings, discards, sample information and effort data exists prior to 2002 and has not previously been submitted to ICES, this would be useful information for the benchmark and should be submitted to InterCatch where possible.
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Witch in IV, IIIa and VIId

- ~~Any tagging data/information or genetic analysis available to differentiate stocks and follow seasonal migration patterns (any format). The file(s) should be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_WIT_[COUNTRY]_tagging".~~
- ~~Maturity at age/length data which are not already included in DATRAS. (Proportion of mature individuals per age/length class per year and quarter). Maturity at age data based on commercial samplings can also be uploaded in InterCatch together with other age based information. Include information on which maturity stage key has been used. The file should be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_WIT_[COUNTRY]_maturity".~~
- ~~Length frequencies and mean weight at length from commercial data (same metiers and aggregation level as used in InterCatch). The data file should be sent to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_WIT_[COUNTRY]_lengthfrequencies". **Length frequencies and mean weights should not be uploaded to InterCatch!**~~

Additional information to the extent possible:

- ~~If landings, discards, sample information and effort data exists prior to 2002 and has not previously been submitted to ICES, this would be useful information for the benchmark and should be submitted to InterCatch where possible.~~

Dab in IV and IIIa

- Maturity at age/length data which are not already included in DATRAS: proportion of mature individuals per age/length class per year and quarter. Please, give information on which maturity stage key has been used. Maturity data based on commercial samplings can also be uploaded in InterCatch together with other age based information. The file should be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_DAB_[COUNTRY]_maturity".
- Indices from national surveys (e.g., SNS, Demersal Young Fish Surveys, Belgian BTS) that can be used to derive information on relative abundance trends (by age). The data file and associated information on survey design and index calculations should be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk. The subject of the e-mail to *accessions* should be "WKNSEA_DAB_[COUNTRY]_national surveys".

- Length frequencies and mean weight at length from surveys and commercial data (same metiers and aggregation level as used in InterCatch). The data file should be sent to accessions@ices.dk.

Additional information to the extent possible:

- If landings, discards, sample information and effort data exists prior to 2002 and has not previously been submitted to ICES, this would be useful information for the benchmark and should be submitted to InterCatch where possible.

Format

The format and metier/fleet definitions are described in Appendix 1-5.

Electronic Submission

Use the following link: <http://intercatch.ices.dk> for uploading to InterCatch or send non-standard data to accessions@ices.dk.

Timing

The deadline to deliver the data is 19 November 2015.

Contact points

For support concerning other issues about the data call please contact: Scott Large (Scott.Large@ices.dk) and the Advisory Department (Advice@ices.dk).

For support concerning InterCatch issues please contact: InterCatchSupport@ices.dk

For support concerning other data issues, please contact: accessions@ices.dk

Conversions to InterCatch Format

A description of the InterCatch Exchange format is found in the InterCatch User Manual¹. An overview of the fields in the InterCatch commercial catch format is found in the Intercatch Format overview², where valid codes are also listed.

To ease the process of converting the national data into the InterCatch format Andrew Campbell from Ireland has made a conversion tool 'InterCatchFileMaker', which converts data manually entered in the 'Exchange format spreadsheet' into a file in the InterCatch format. The conversion tool 'InterCatchFileMaker' can be downloaded at the InterCatch information page³. The download includes a spreadsheet in which the landings and sampling data can be placed; the program then converts the data in the spreadsheet into the InterCatch format.

- 1) If InterCatchFilemaker conversion program and the exchange format spreadsheet has been used to convert your data to InterCatch format, then the values in the data field "NumSamlpesAge" in the InterCatch format file must be entered manually.
- 2) If in some areas and quarters, there are only length samples available (age samples are missing), then it is possible to use ALKs from neighboring areas or quarters to calculate CANUM and WECA for "Species Data" (SD) records. In this case "-9" in the data fields of "NumSamlpesAge" and "NumAgeMeas" must be entered.

¹<http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/Intercatch/InterCatch%20User%20Manual%20Doc1-11.pdf>

² <http://dome.ices.dk/datsu/selRep.aspx?Dataset=76>

³ http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/Intercatch/Filemaker4_3.zip

Appendix 1

Gear coding (as defined under the [DCF](#)). Codes made available match those in the WGNSSK -WGMIXFISH data call and are shown in the left hand column and are based on information from countries fishing in areas IIIaN, IV and VIId about significant fishing gears.

AREA	GEAR TYPE	AVAILABLE METIER TAGS FOR FULLY DOCUMENTED FISHERIES ADD “_FDF” AFTER LENGTH CLASS.
IIIaN (Skagerrak) and IIIaS (Kattegat) Area Type = SubDiv		TBB_CRU_16-31_0_0_all
		TBB_DEF_90-99_0_0_all
		TBB_DEF_>=120_0_0_all
	Otter trawl	OTB_CRU_16-31_0_0_all
		OTB_CRU_32-69_0_0_all
		OTB_CRU_32-69_2_22_all
		OTB_CRU_70-89_2_35_all
		OTB_CRU_90-119_0_0_all
		OTB_CRU_90-119_0_0_all_FDF
	Seines	SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all
		SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all_FDF
		SSC_DEF_>=120_0_0_all
		SSC_DEF_>=120_0_0_all_FDF
	Gill, trammel, drift nets	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all
		GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0_all
		GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0_all_FDF
		GNS_DEF_>=220_0_0_all
		GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all
	Lines	LLS_FIF_0_0_0_all
		LLS_FIF_0_0_0_all_FDF
	Others (Human consumption)	MIS_MIS_0_0_0_HC

	Others (Industrial fisheries)	MIS_MIS_0_0_0_IBC
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IV – (North Sea) Area type = SubArea & VIIId (Eastern Channel) Area Type = Div & VIa and VIb (West of Scotland) Area Type = Div		TBB_CRU_16-31_0_0_all	
		TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	
		TBB_DEF_>=120_0_0_all	
	Otter trawl	OTB_CRU_16-31_0_0_all	
		OTB_CRU_32-69_0_0_all	
		OTB_SPF_32-69_0_0_all	
		OTB_CRU_70-99_0_0_all	
		OTB_CRU_70-99_0_0_all_FDF	
		OTB_DEF_>=120_0_0_all OTB_DEF_>=120_0_0_all_FDF	
	Seines	SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all_FDF	
		SSC_DEF_>=120_0_0_all SSC_DEF_>=120_0_0_all_FDF	
		Gill, trammel, drift nets	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all
			GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0_all GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0_all_FDF
	GNS_DEF_>=220_0_0_all		
	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all		
	GTR_DEF_all_0_0_all		
	Lines		LLS_FIF_0_0_0_all LLS_FIF_0_0_0_all_FDF
		Pots and Traps	FPO_CRU_0_0_0_all
	Others (Human consumption)	MIS_MIS_0_0_0_HC	
	Others (Industrial fisheries)	MIS_MIS_0_0_0_IBC	

Code available in WGNSSK- -WGMIXFISH data call	DCF code	Type of gear
TBB	TBB	Beam trawl
OTB	OTB	Bottom otter trawl
	OTT	Multi-rig otter trawl
	PTB	Bottom pair trawl
	OTM	Midwater otter trawl
	PTM	Midwater pair trawl
SSC	SSC	Fly shooting (Scottish) seine
	SPR	Pair seine
	PS	Purse seine
SDN	SDN	Anchored seine
	SB, SV	Beach and boat seine
GNS	GNS	Set gillnet
	GND	Driftnet
GTR	GTR	Trammel net
LLS	LHP	Pole lines
	LHM	Hand lines
	LLS	Set longlines
FPO	FPO	Pots and Traps
DemHC	FYK	Fyke nets
	FPN	Stationary uncovered pound nets
	DRB	Boat dredge
	HMD	Mechanised/ Suction dredge
	OTH	Other

Appendix 2 Mesh size coding

Mesh size categories below are those permitted under the DCF. Data should be provided according to the categories below or aggregations of the categories below.

If data is aggregated over categories the most significant category is entered e.g. a mobile gear with mesh sizes covering 70-119 mm (combining 70-99, and 100-119) but 70-99mm is most significant receives code 70-99.

Gear type	Area	Code	
Mobile gears	IIIaN (Skagerrak)	<16	
		16-31	
		32-69	
		70-89	
		90-119	
		>=120	
		IV, VIab & VIId (North Sea and Eastern Channel)	<16
	16-31		
	32-69		
	70-99		
	100-119		
	>=120		
	Passive gears		Whole of IIIa, IV and VIId
		50-70	
90-99			
100-119			
120-219			
>=220			

Appendix 3 Selectivity device

Selectivity devices are defined under the DCF as follows

Description	Code
None mounted	0
Exit window/selection panel	1
Grid	2
Unknown	3

Appendix 4 Country coding (as used currently by InterCatch)

BE	Belgium
CA	Canada
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FO	Faroe Islands
FR	France
GG	UK (Channel Island Guernsey)
GL	Greenland
IE	Ireland
IM	UK (Isle of Man)
IS	Iceland
IT	Italy
JE	UK (Channel Island Jersey)
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
NL	Netherlands
NO	Norway
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RU	Russia
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
UKE	UK (England)
UKN	UK(Northern Ireland)
UKS	UK(Scotland)
US	United States

Appendix 5 Area coding

Codes accepted by InterCatch.

Area codes	Area type code
IIIaN (Skagerrak)	SubDiv
IIIaS (Kattegat)	SubDiv
IV (ICES sub-area IV)	SubArea
VIIId (ICES division VIIId)	Div
VIa (ICES division VIa)	Div
VIb (ICES division VIb)	Div