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International Council for the
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Subject: Data call 2017: Landings, discards, biological sample and effort data from 2016 in support the ICES fisheries advice in 2017.

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Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for the 2017 update for the Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG). Also, enclosed are six annexes with additional information.

At the request of PGDATA, the usual fishery data call was improved and made clearer during the annual PGDATA meeting last week. In order to fully incorporate the suggestions of PGDATA into the annual data call will need more time. However, due to the fast approaching HAWG meeting (14th March), a separate data call is being issued in order that the required data is received on time and the changes to the full data call do not delay the work of this group. The deadline for submitting the data for HAWG will be the **9th March 2017**. This will ensure enough time is available to undertake the necessary quality checks and enable the EG to provide the best advice possible in the given time frame.

The data will be used by ICES expert groups contributing to the advisory process addressing request for advice on fisheries, and fish and shellfish stocks from ICES advice recipients.

For countries which are also EU members this data call is under the Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 and No 665/2008.

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk. For support concerning InterCatch issues please contact: InterCatchsupport@ices.dk. For questions on data submission, please contact: accessions@ices.dk.

The data call for the remaining assessment working groups will follow in the next few days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Christine Brusendorff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anne Christine Brusendorff

General Secretary

CC: Niels Hintzen (HAWG chair), Venetia Kostopoulou (DG-Mare, DCF); Bas Drukker (DG-Mare, DCF)

Data call: Data submission for ICES fisheries advisory work on the Herring Assessment Group (HAWG)

1. Scope of the Data call

ICES Member Countries are requested to provide, for selected ICES fish stocks:

- landings*, discards*, biological and effort data from 2016 and other supporting information;
- for stocks identified in annex1 with DLS under column " DLS proxy RP"; data on estimates of length compositions for historic landings and discards from at least the three most recent consecutive years (e.g. 2016, 2015, 2014) alongside data quantity and quality information[†] and supporting information on life history parameters[‡];

For some species, countries should also submit landings below minimum size and logbook registered discard. More relevant details are specified further down.

A list of stocks included in the data call are provided in Annex 1. **All countries having catch or landings data on these stocks should submit data, even if not listed on the data request spreadsheets.** The countries listed on the data request spreadsheets were identified based on previous year catches and therefore new fisheries (in 2016) are not detected but should also be reported.

The requested data will be used by ICES advisory groups involved in the provision of ICES advice.

ICES requests the data to be delivered by **9th of March 2017** to provide enough time for additional quality assurance prior to the meeting.

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection as referred to in paragraph (16) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008.

2. Data submission

ICES Member Countries are requested to supply data as specified on spreadsheet (Annex 1) to InterCatch, to ICES Secretariat via email (accessions@ices.dk) or both. Data include:

- Landings*, discards*, biological data and effort data from 2016 and other supporting information;
- for stocks identified in annex1 with DLS under column " DLS proxy RP"; estimates of length compositions for historic landings and discards from at least the three most recent consecutive years (e.g. 2016, 2015, 2014) of their commercial fisheries;
- information on data quantity should be submitted to InterCatch[†] (as specified in Annex 4);

* Throughout the present document, the term "landings" includes BMS (Below Minimum Size) landings and the term "discards" includes logbook registered discards (see section 5).

[†] "Data quality and quantity information" includes a set of simple indicators that will allow ICES Expert Groups to get a general idea on the quantity and quality data submitted. See Annex 5 for more details.

[‡] "Supporting information on life history parameters" includes information on specific life history traits, if available, noting that some candidate reference points require input on length at first maturity (L_{mat}), growth parameters (e.g., L_{inf} , K) and M (natural mortality). See Annex 6 for more details.

- for stocks identified in annex1 with DLS under column " DLS proxy RP"; excel spreadsheets with simple quality/quantity indicators (see Annex 5) and supporting information on life history parameters† (see Annex 6) should be submitted directly to accessions@ices.dk.

The list of species and stocks, for which data should be submitted, together with the information on the area descriptions and Working Group (WG) chairs' contact details are given in Annex 1 in separate sheets. ICES aims at maintain stable definitions over the years of species – stock – metier combinations to facilitate raising data at the institute level.

For stocks where discard data have been submitted in previous years to InterCatch, it should also be submitted to InterCatch (Annex 1) for 2016.

If the format for submission of accession data (Annex 1) is not specified further through the provided templates (Annex 1-3), the format should be the same as used in previous data calls and previous years (if anything is unclear please contact accessions@ices.dk).

If corrections for earlier years need to be made, inform the Expert Group chair and advice@ices.dk (see e-mail contact details in section 7). A full corrected set of data may need to be uploaded.

If data on both age and length are requested, please **upload the biological age sample data first** in one file and last the length sample data in another file to InterCatch, when marked with "IC" in Annex 1. A more detailed description will follow later.

The file will be forwarded to the respective stock coordinators and the Expert Group/workshop chairs.

Data emailed to accessions@ices.dk should have subject and filename as follows:
"2017 DC [expert group] [stock code/stock codes] [country] [type of data]"
 (example: 2017 DC WGBFAS her.27.28 LV landings)

2.1. Annex 5 and 6

The "data quantity and quality information" and "supporting life history information" (e.g., length at first maturity (L_{mat}), growth parameters (e.g., L_{inf} , K) and natural mortality) data should be submitted directly to ICES (accessions@ices.dk). "Quantity and quality information" should be supplied in the same resolution as the one used in InterCatch submission of length compositions.

"Other Supporting life-history information" should be supplied on a country /stock basis. See Annex 5 and 6 for more details.

3. How to report to InterCatch

The InterCatch formatted national data should be imported into InterCatch, which is available at this link: <https://intercatch.ices.dk/Login.aspx>.

Please see the 'InterCatch Exchange Manuals' on the ICES website for information on the required exchange format and used codes at <http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data->

portals/Pages/InterCatch.aspx. An overview of the data fields used in the InterCatch exchange format are detailed in Annex 4.

4. Age and length data in parallel in InterCatch

InterCatch can now work with age and length data in parallel. There is still no age-length-keys in InterCatch, which means that all strata have to be imported either when importing catches (with and without age samples) or importing catches (with and without length samples). It also means that length sample data have to be imported last for species with both age and length distribution data. This is due to InterCatch ignoring strata of other sample types. However, InterCatch will always take strata without samples. Also, there is no problem with overwriting data in InterCatch as long as length data are imported latest, for stocks with both length and age samples.

5. Catch categories in InterCatch

For the following species under HAWG data should also be submitted for the catch categories; BMS landings and logbook registered discards:

- **HAWG:** Herring and sprat.

In InterCatch only CATON is used to derive the total catch used for stock assessment. The values for the different categories in the OffLandings fields are only informative and will not be used in the catch estimate.

Only use the Reporting Category R, in case there are black landings please use Reporting Category N for Non-reported.

5.1. Landing, 'L'

The 'Landing' catch category in InterCatch will cover the landing as it has done previously and it will apply to landings above minimum size.

5.2. Discard, 'D'

The 'Discard' catch category in InterCatch will cover the discard as it has done previously and will continue to be used. This is the part of the catch, which is thrown overboard into the sea and not registered in the logbook. This is based on fishery observer estimations.

This component will be in the CATON field and in the OffLandings field a 0(zero) will be added.

5.3. BMS Landing, 'B'

Relevant for stocks under landing obligation. The BMS landing will consist of fish Below Minimum Size, BMS, and damaged fish as registered in the logbook.

This component will be added to the OffLandings as reported in the logbook. If the discard catch category includes the BMS category a 0 (zero) should be added to the CATON. Otherwise, your best estimate should be added to the CATON.

5.4. Logbook Registered Discard, 'R'

Relevant for stocks under landing obligation. Logbook registered discard are discards, which are registered in the logbook and are under the exemption rules (e.g. *de minimis*). Damaged fish can also be included under this Logbook registered discard.

This component will be added to the OffLandings as reported in the logbook. A 0 (zero) has to be added to the CATON because this already included in the discard estimates (5.2).

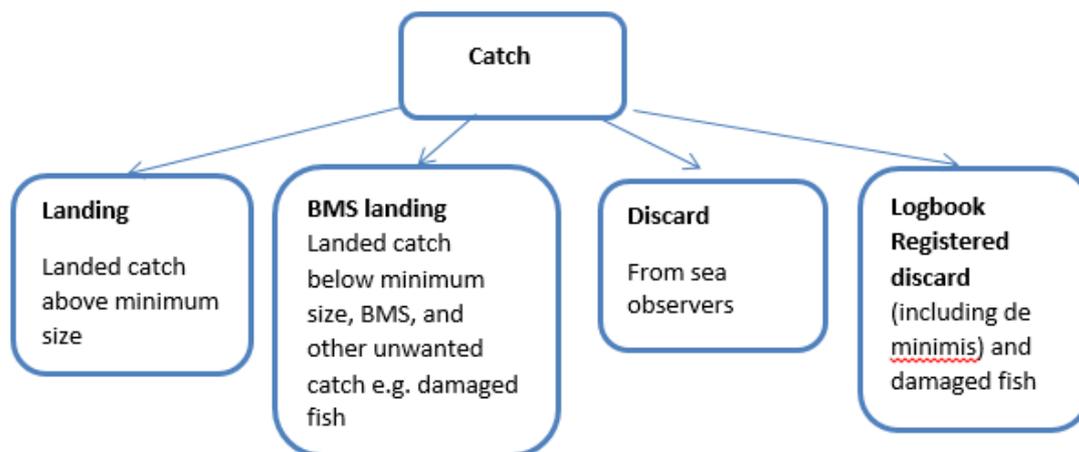


Figure 1. Description of the four current catch categories.

Table 1. The species information (SI) record in InterCatch – landing obligation example

Record number	10	11	12	13	19	20	Comments
Field code	Species	Stock	Catch Category	Reporting Category	CATON	OffLandings	
	COD	NA	D	R	1300	0	This is an estimate based on the observer sampling on board. The observer has access to discards and BMS fraction. Observer estimate includes both fractions
	COD	NA	B	R	0	0.1	The BMS registered in the logbook, will be included in the OffLandings field. CATON will be zero at the Catch category D already includes the BMS
	COD	NA	R	R	0	0.2	The Discards registered in the logbook, will be included in the OffLandings field. CATON will be zero at the Catch category D already includes all the Discards (the ones registered in the logbook and the ones not registered)

Table 2. The species information (SI) record in InterCatch – landing obligation example

Record number	10	11	12	13	19	20	Comments
Field code	Species	Stock	Catch Category	Reporting Category	CATON	OffLandings	
	COD	NA	D	R	1300	0	No observer effect identified in respect to the discard/ BMS fraction, so the discard estimate is an estimate of the discard and do not include the BMS
	COD	NA	B	R	0.1	0.1	The BMS from the logbooks in both columns, see above
	COD	NA	R	R	0	0.2	

6. HAWG specification

Sprat data that is marked with “AC*” in Annex 1 need to be sent by stock in the exchange format specified in Annex 2 (DC_Annex 2_Template_sprat_kask and nsea).

Herring data that is marked with “AC” in Annex 1 need to be sent by stock in the exchange format specified in the so-called Yellow Sheets (Annex 3).

Remember to also use the new catch categories: BMS landing and logbook registered discard.

7. Units used

Landings: in tonnes (three decimal places).

Year must be entered as four digits, e.g. “2016”.

8. Contacts

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk and the WG chair, Niels Hintzen, at niels.hintzen@wur.nl

For questions on data submission, please contact: accessions@ices.dk

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

Appendix 1. Data Limited Stocks data quality and quantity information in the 2017 ICES data call in Annex 5.

"Data quality and quantity information" includes a set of simple indicators that will allow ICES Expert Groups to get a general idea on the quantity and quality data submitted.

The aggregation should be as in the IC.

A set of simple indicators on data quantity and quality indicators are requested to be used by ICES EGs in preliminary checking of the quality and quantity of the length compositions made available. These indicators should be sent directly to accessions@ices.dk and are supplemental to the quantity indicators submitted to InterCatch, including: total landings in kg, number of fishing trips (total and with target stock; at national level and observed by national programme), number of fishing trips where stock was length-measured and number and whole-weight of specimens actually measured for length.

ID Fields									Questionnaire							
Country	Species	Species 3 letter code	2016 Stock code	Geographical area	Fleet / Gear type / Metier	Year	Quarter	Catch Category	Total volume (in kg, whole weight)	Total number of trips (country level)	Number of trips with target specie (country level)	Total number of trips (observed in programme)	Total number trips observed with stock	Total number of trips where stock was length-measured	Total number of fish length-measured	Weight of fish measured (in kg, whole weight)
xxx	Clupea harengus	HER	her.27.6a7bc	subarea 4	OTM_SPF_32-69_0_0_all	2015	1	L	500	244	186	47	2	2	8	25

Figure 2- Quantitative info tab

Information on thresholds used to define the data submitted (e.g., was data considered good-enough for submission only if more than a minimum number of fish was measured per quarter?) and the general opinion of data providers on the quality of the data submitted and possible estimation issues are also request.

ID Fields									Questionnaire	
Country	Species	Species 3 letter code	Stock code	Geographical area	Fleet / Gear type / Metier	Year	Quarter	Catch Category	Did you use any kind of threshold to define the data you uploaded (e.g., minimum number of fish measured, minimum number of hauls/trips with stock, absence of gaps in length frequency, other?) if yes, please specify.	General opinion of data providers on the quality of the data submitted.
xxx	Clupea harengus	HER	her.27.6a7bc	subarea 4	OTM_SPF_32-69_0_0_all	2015	1	L	Yes. Only fleets*quarter*stock*area with >5 individuals measured in >=2 trips were used	Data is very scarce but total landings too - should not be much of a problem

Figure 3- Qualitative info tab

Appendix 2. Supporting life history information in the 2017 ICES data call in Annex 6.

“Supporting life history information” would include information on life history traits, if available, noting that some candidate reference points may require input on L_{mat} (length at first maturity), growth parameters (e.g., L_{inf} , K), and M (natural mortality). ICES recognizes that for countries which are also EU members, this type of information is not under the DCF regulation ((EC) No 199/2008). That said, this type of information is important to the delivery of advice associated with this data call. ICES asks that countries report this information if they are aware of it, but it is not obligatory.

^ If information is provided on traits not listed in the template, include them in these rows with the parameter name in the comments column.						
	Value	Reference	Country code	Stock code	Species code	Comments
L_{mat}						
L_{inf}						
K						
M						
Unspecified parameter^						
Unspecified parameter^						