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Our Ref: L.27/ACB/mo

26 January 2018

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

Dear Reader

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for 2018 update herring and sprat stock assessments. Also, enclosed are seven annexes with additional information.

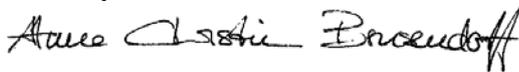
The data will be used by the ICES Herring Assessment Working Group contributing to the advisory process addressing request for advice on fisheries and fish stocks from ICES advice recipients.

For countries which are also EU members this data call is under Regulations (EU) No 2017/1004 and (EU) No 1380/2013.

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 will also available from the ICES website at: <http://ices.dk/marine-data/tools/Pages/Data-calls.aspx>

Sincerely,



Anne Christine Brusendorff
General Secretary

CC: Valerio Bartolino (HAWG co-chair); Susan Mærsk Lusseau (HAWG co-chair); Venetia Kostopoulou (DG-Mare, DCF); Bas Drukker (DG-Mare, DCF).



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HAWG Data Call 2018

Data call: Data submission for ICES fisheries advisory work on the Herring Assessment

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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 2017 and other supporting information.

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 spreadsheet.** The countries listed were identified based on previous year catches and therefore new fisheries (in 2017) are not detected but should also be reported.

2 Rationale

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

3 Legal framework

The legal framework for the data call is as follows:

- Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004 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.
- Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009.
- This data call follows the principles of personal data protection as referred to in paragraph (9) of the preamble in Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008.

4 Deadlines

ICES requests the data to be delivered by the **26th February 2018** to provide enough time for additional quality assurance prior to the meeting.

The deadline does not apply to the survey data. It is expected that survey data will be submitted to DATRAS (Database of Trawl Surveys) by the agreed timetable (see <http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/DATRAS-deadlines.aspx>), to ICES acoustic database, or sent to accessions@ices.dk as early as possible prior to the Working Group meeting.

5 Data to report

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

* Throughout the present document, the term "landings" includes BMS (Below Minimum Size) landings and the term "discards" includes logbook registered discards (see section 6.1.4).

- landings, discards, biological data and effort data from 2017 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 the most recent consecutive years (i.e. 2017, 2016, 2015) of their commercial fisheries;
- "Other Supporting life-history information"[†] should be submitted to accessions@ices.dk on a country/stock basis (see Annex 6).

The list of species and stocks, for which data should be submitted, are given in Annex 1. ICES aims at maintain stable definitions over the years of species – stock – metier combinations to facilitate raising data at the institute level.

Data should be reported by the lowest subdivision possible. Aggregations should not be beyond the assessment area of individual stocks. If the format for submission of accession data is not specified further through the provided templates (Annex 1-6), the format should be the same as used in previous data calls and previous years (if anything is unclear, please contact advice@ices.dk).

If corrections for earlier years need to be made, please inform the Expert Group chair (see email addresses under "contact information" section) and the ICES Secretariat through advice@ices.dk. A full corrected set of data may need to be uploaded.

6 Data submission

6.1. Reporting to Intercatch

The InterCatch formatted national data should be uploaded 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 7

For stocks where discard data have been submitted in previous years to InterCatch, data should also be submitted to InterCatch (Annex 1) for 2017.

Area-disaggregated catch data should be submitted to InterCatch in a consistent manner between Data Calls. If area aggregations must be made, it should be clearly stated in the InfoStockCoordinator information text field (number 23 in the import file to InterCatch).

[†] "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.

6.1.1. Data conversion to InterCatch format

A description of the InterCatch Exchange format is found in the InterCatch User Manual[‡]. An overview of the fields in the InterCatch commercial catch format is found in the Intercatch Format overview[§], 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 the conversion tool “InterCatchFileMaker”, which converts data manually entered in the ‘Exchange format spreadsheet’ into a file in the InterCatch format. **Be aware that the tool does not currently support the catch categories BMS Landings and Logbook registered discards** (see section 6.1.4.). The conversion tool “InterCatchFileMaker” can be downloaded from the ICES webpage for InterCatch exchange format under ‘Format conversion tools’ ([link](#)). The download includes a spreadsheet in which the landings and sampling data can be placed; the program then converts the data into the InterCatch format.

- 1) If the “InterCatchFilemaker” conversion program and the exchange format spreadsheet have been used to convert your data to InterCatch format, then the values in the data field "NumSamplesAge" 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, before importing data to InterCatch. In this case "-9" must be entered in the data fields of "NumSamplesAge" and "NumAgeMeas".

6.1.2. New and simple age and length data in parallel in InterCatch

A small change in the way InterCatch can work with age and length data in parallel has been implemented. Before it was important that length was imported latest although currently the order of importing catches with sample data (age/length) does not matter. In the current version it is important that for a given stratum a catch without samples is not imported after a catch with samples has been imported. So e.g. never import a catch with age samples followed by the same catch without samples, because this will erase the age samples already imported. This is the way to remove wrongly imported age or length data which do not belong to the strata. A simple procedure to follow would be to first import catches for all strata and in this first import the existing age samples. Then in a second import only the strata where there are catches with length samples should be imported.

6.1.3. Sample information on age and length data

When age or length data are imported, it is requested to fill in the following age and length sampling information fields related to data quality for both landing and discard samples:

- Number samples of length, field: NumSamplesLngr
- Number length measured, field: NumLngrMeas
- Number samples of age, field: NumSamplesAge
- Number age measured, field: NumAgeMeas

Data submitters are encouraged to use the fields related to data quality within InterCatch. This will help stock assessors to make allocations in InterCatch and to identify sampling level changes from one year to another.

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

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

The units of the samples in the record types “NumSamplesLngt” and “NumSamplesAge” of the species data record should be the number of primary sample units (vessel, trip, harbour day, etc.). The units should be given in the InterCatch species information field named “InfoFleet”.

If there are any questions regarding InterCatch submissions, please contact the working group chair (see email addresses under “contact information” section) and ICES Secretariat at InterCatchsupport@ices.dk.

6.1.4. Catch categories in InterCatch

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.

Discard, ‘D’

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

This component should be in the CATON field and in the OffLandings field a 0 (zero) should be inserted.

Discard data should be reported even when the stock shows low discard values. Also, reporting of discard data should be independent of metier i.e. discarded pelagic species even when sampled in demersal observer programs should still be submitted.

BMS Landing, ‘B’

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

This component should be inserted in the OffLandings field as reported in the logbook. If the discard weight includes the BMS weight a 0 (zero) should be inserted into the CATON field. Otherwise, your best estimate should be inserted into the CATON field.

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 catch can also be included under this Logbook registered discard.

This component should be inserted to the OffLandings field as reported in the logbook. A 0 (zero) has to be inserted in the CATON field as this component is already included in the discard estimates.

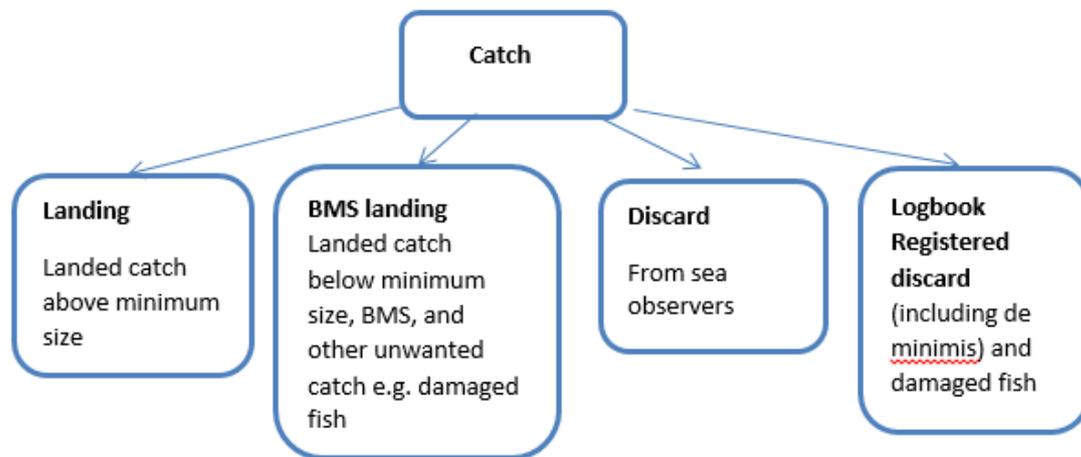


Figure 1. Description of the four current catch categories.

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 (OfficialLanding) are only informative and will not be used in the catch estimate.

Only use the Reporting Category R for all catch categories. In case there are black landings, please use Reporting Category N for Non-reported.

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	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, should be inserted in the OffLandings field. CATON should be zero as the Catch category D already includes the BMS
	COD	NA	R	R	0	0.2	The Discards registered in the logbook, should be inserted in the OffLandings field. CATON will be zero as the Catch category D already includes all the Discards (the ones registered in the logbook and the ones not registered)

Table 3. 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 table above
	COD	NA	R	R	0	0.2	

6.1.5. Effort data in InterCatch

Effort is recorded in position 11 of the InterCatch header information. The effort in InterCatch supports WGMIXFISH which needs effort by metier and not by species. This means, that the effort value should be the same for all species, for a given strata. If landing data and discard data are imported in separated files then effort should only be imported once in the landings data. Effort for the discard data should be indicated with a '-9' (indicating no effort).

6.2. Reporting to other destinations

Files for accessions@ices.dk should be submitted in as few e-mails as possible. The file name must include working group, stock, country and data type references as specified below. The email subject must include working group, stock and country references.

"2018 DC [expert group] [stock code/stock codes] [country] [type of data]"

(example: 2018 DC HAWG spr.27.3a DE landings)

The files will be forwarded to the respective stock coordinators and the Expert Group chairs.

8 Data reporting units

Landings, discards, and biological sampling data: as specified in InterCatch Exchange Format.

Landings, discards: by number and in tonnes at 1 cm length intervals

9 Zero catch

Countries with no landings for stocks for which they usually report catches should enter a value of zero for landing to InterCatch. This will reassure the stock assessor that no data are missing. A single import of an annual zero landing stratum is acceptable.

For stocks where fishing only occurs in specific quarters, data for quarters with no catches should also be entered (by metier/fleet) to ensure that no data was missed. (e.g. for stocks where there are catches in quarter 1, 2 and 4, a catch of zero should be added for quarter 3).

10 Specific uploading information

Herring entries marked with “AC” in Annex 1 need to be sent by stock in the exchange format specified in the so-called Yellow Sheets (DC_Annex 2_Yellow sheet).

Sprat entries marked with “AC3” in Annex 1 need to be sent by stock in the exchange format specified in Annex 3 (i.e. DC_Annex 3_Template_sprat).

For the stock her.27.20-24 entries marked with “AC4” in Annex 1 need to be sent in the exchange format specified in Annex 4 (i.e. DC_Annex 4_Template_her.27.2024).

For the stock her.27.3a47d entries marked with “AC12” in Annex 1 need to be split in 4a West and 4a East (split at 2 degrees East).

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

11 Contact information

For support concerning any data call issues about the data call please contact the Advisory Department (advice@ices.dk) and the WG chairs Valerio Bartolino (valerio.bartolino@slu.se) and Susan Mærsk Lusseau (s.lusseau@marlab.ac.uk).

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

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

Appendix 1.

The information requested in this appendix is only required for stocks identified in Annex 1 with DLS under column "DLS proxy RP".

Supporting life history information in the 2018 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 Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004. That said, this type of information is important to the delivery of advice associated with this data call. ICES asks Member countries to 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
Lmat						
Linf						
K						
M						
Unspecified parameter^						
Unspecified parameter^						

Figure 2. Supporting life history information.