

*GEF BALTIC SEA REGIONAL PROJECT
PHASE 1: 2003 – 2005*

**WORKSHOP ON THE DATA
MANAGEMENT, SCREENING AND
UPLOAD IN BALTIC TRAWL SURVEY
(*DATRAS*) AND COMMERCIAL FISHERY
SAMPLING (*FISHFRAME*) DATABASES**

**Gdynia, Poland
24-25 October 2005**

COMPILED BY
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BSRP Large Marine Ecosystem Component implemented by:
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

*Workshop on the data management, screening and upload in Baltic Trawl Survey (DATRAS)
and Commercial Fishery Sampling (FishFrame) databases*

Introduction:

In accordance with Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP) Work plans the Fish and Fisheries Coordination centre in cooperation with DIFRES and ICES was organizing work-shop on fish commercial sampling and BITS survey data implementation, maintenance into the FishFrame and DATRAS databases. The workshop was organized in accordance with recommendations of Working Group of the Baltic Fisheries Assessment (WGBFAS) and Working Group of the Fish Surveys in the Baltic (WGBIFS). The work-shop was held during 24 and 27 of October 2005 and was kindly hosted by the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia, Poland. It was held for 4 days:

1) During 24-25 of October for DATRAS database (teachers from ICES secretariat -Lena Inger Larsen and Maria Zarecki).

2) During 26-27 of October for FishFrame database (teachers from DIFRES - Henrik Degel and Teunis Jansen).

Everybody from participants was asked to bring a few years of data DATRAS and FishFrame exchange formats.

The participants of meeting were from all Baltic countries except Germany and Finland. The information concerning Workshop venue and results also was distributed to countries from which were no participants.

List of participants:

Denmark:

Teunis Jansen tej@dfu.min.dk
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Estonia:

Tiit Raid tiit.raid@ut.ee

Finland:

(nobody was participating, but information is distributed to):

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Russia:

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Sweden (FishFrame part):

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Ann-Sofie Ågren Ann-Sofie.Agren@fiskeriverket.se

Sweden (DATRAS part):

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Barbara Bland barbara.bland@fiskeriverket.se

Agenda of DATRAS part:

Day one (24 of October):

Focus will be on data submission to ensure that data are reported correctly (DATSU – data screening programme for data submission to DATRAS).

- Data exchange format fields and their meaning
- Discuss the appropriate use of codes in the DATRAS
- Use of ICES reference code system
- Available information on the ICES web site and its application
- Run the data screening program on national data
- Discuss the error/ warning messages and clear misunderstandings

Day two (25 of October):

Focus will be on DATRAS

- Export formats and their functionalities
- Index calculations provided by DATRAS
- Discuss improvements and the next versions of DATRAS, incl. a priority of tasks

At the workshop the trawl survey database (DATRAS), the exchange format and the data screening utility (DATSU) that data submitters have to use before data are submitted to ICES was presented by Maria Zarecki and Lena Larsen from ICES. This led to the discussion where focus mainly was on understanding the exchange format and suggestions for improvements to the systems.

The following are prioritised lists for further development in both DATSU and DATRAS.

Concerning the improving of DATSU following requests have been forwarded:

1. Before data screening it is necessary to remove the commas if data are exported from files originated by MS EXCEL;
2. ICES are requested to finalize and distribute the hard copy of DATSU/DATRAS manual;
3. Manual should include more detailed description of data fields:
3. Manual should include the examples of how to use fields
4. It should be ensured that higher amount of data can be used for DATSU at once (more than one year, quarter);
5. Flag when format have changed (ices must inform national laboratories if changes in DATSU/DATRAS has been made)

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6. Checking of data on fish biological parameters eg weight-length, length age etc) for detection of outliers should be developed. It was suggested that checking programme similar to those in FishFrame should be developed.
7. In order to avoid or prevent internet problems during use of DATSU national laboratories have to inform ICES data managers on accounted problems.

Requests for DATRAS

Haul and length measurement data:

1. Download of length based data
2. Download of more than one ship/species in one file

SMALK:

3. Show data by country as well as combined

Web in general:

1. Write a recommendations on the web: use English version of Offices
4. Maps of areas

General comments:

- Change check on calculated distance from error to warning.
- Remember to inform also data submitters and not just WG members when changes to exchange format occur.
- Send in formation on:
 - D/N codes
 - Presentations
 - EXCEL sheets with exchange format
- Check up on herring + sprat age/winter rings
- CV – give more than just 5 % confidence interval
- Towing directions: change from 1 to 0 as min
- Baltic areas 21-23 should be included
- ICES can expect resubmissions from Poland, Sweden, Germany and Denmark in near future
- Check passwords for Sweden, Poland and Lithuanian

The participants realised the potentials in the new DATRAS exchange format where data can be provided to ICES in a rawer format and thereby reduce the amount of work. Also a number of misunderstandings of the exchange format was identified and solved.

ICES received a good feedback on improvement to the system that ICES will try to incorporate in the next version of DATRAS. In general the outcome of the workshop was very good; however, had the workshop been conducted one year earlier then a number of the problems discovered lately in the database with missing zero hauls and misunderstanding of validity codes when reporting data could have been avoided.

It is therefore recommended that a workshop like this is conducted every time a new database system is introduced or major updates have been done to existing systems. DATRAS will be updated during the next 1/2 year. As part of the development a number user group meetings will take place, however, the introduction of the new facilities to the Baltic contributors could very well be presented and discussed in a workshop like the one in Gdynia.

Agenda of FishFrame part:

- 1) General update on the status of FishFrame.
 - a) Other FishFrame clones: North Sea version,
 - b) RCMs and FishFrame
 - c) User activity
 - d) Data status
- 2) Analysis of national vs. FishFrame's raising procedures
 - a) FishFrame's method
 - b) Status of analysis done at WGBFAS 2005
 - c) Method for comparing
 - d) Data country by country
- 3) Upload session (Russia and Lithuania data only)
 - a) Demo of upload, validation and release
 - b) Work on data by sub-groups
 - c) Reporting and analysis functionality
 - d) Demo of existing reports and analysis
 - e) Wishes for new reports
 - f) Future reporting system
- 4) Data quality
 - a) Assessment of quality of current data
 - b) New data quality checker
- 5) Discussion forum
 - a) FishFrame forum
 - b) Will it be used?
- 6) Other subjects
 - a) All other matters
 - b) Wishes for new modules / functionality
 - i) BITS functionality
 - ii) Data foundation tracking functionality
 - iii) Browser independence
 - iv) More tutorials (help-animations)
 - v) Run through task list and prioritize
 - vi) Exchange format

Day 1.

Welcome and practical information was given by Henrik Degel and Teunis Jansen. The participants presented themselves.

The points 1 and 2 were presented (see powerpoint presentation for details) and the group split into subgroups. Some worked on point 2 comparing national raisings with the output from FishFrame while others worked on the uploading and validation of national data (point 3).

Day 2.

The day began with a presentation of the results from the group work on point 2. The conclusion was that in some cases there was match between national results and FishFrame output, but in some cases questions were raised and more analysis was needed. This analysis would continue via mail after the workshop and the results would be presented to ICES WGBFAS in April.

This discussion and presentation lead to the next point: "Reporting and analysis functionality". A presentation and detailed guided tour through all the reporting and analysis functionality ended in a discussion on wishes for new reporting and outputs.

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The output to ICES InterCatch was considered important by most participants and the FishFrame team.

The quality of the data in FishFrame was discussed. It is generally considered as good, but one little problem was pointed out. Some length-data has been uploaded as cm instead of mm. It was decided that these data would be pointed out in a later mail from the FishFrame team and then corrected together with the national institutes. A new module called "Advanced data checker" that will be released in version 4.0 in January 2006 was also demonstrated.

The discussion forum had not been used. Partly because all correspondence goes by mail or phone and partly because that all users did not receive a mail when someone had added a post. It was decided to wait with the discussion forum and then take it up again later if users requested this module.

It was shown that FishFrame is moving towards browser independence, so that users can run FishFrame in e.g. Firefox, Netscape Navigator and Opera. The complete browser independence is expected in the autumn release of FishFrame in 2006, although most of the modules will be available from v.4.0 and 4.1 (January and April, 2006).

The workshop was terminated by the teachers, who thanked MIR for hosting the workshop, the Baltic Sea Regional Project for funding the workshop and the participants for a very productive workshop based on the exceptional drive demonstrated by all participants.