

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

**WORKSHOP  
“DATA UPLOAD PROCEDURE IN FISHFRAME”**

**Riga, Latvia  
18-19 October 2004**

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COMPILED BY  
MARIS PLIKSH

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

## Introduction.

The workshop took place from 18-19 October in Riga (Latvia) and was kindly hosted by the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute and funded by Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP).

List of participants:

Country	Participant
Poland	Ryszard Grzebielec
	Iwona Psuty-Lipska
Russia	Igor Karpushevskij*
Estonia	Tiit Raid
	Redik Eshbaum
Lithuania	Tomas Zolubas
	Antanas Kontautas
Latvia	Ivo Sics
	Georgs Kornilovs
	Guntars Strods
Denmark	Henrik Degel (teacher)
	Teunis Jansen (teacher)
Germany	Andrés Velasco
	Ulrich Berth
Sweden	Jan Andersson
	Susanne Tärnlund
	Yvonne Walter
	Ann-Sofie Ågren
	Katja Ringdahl
Finland	Jukka Poni
	Petteri Karttunen

\* Igor Karpushevskij did not arrive because he could not get a visa in due time.

## Agenda.

1. General briefing of new functionality in FishFrame
2. Upload of data where everybody try to upload own data (including formats descriptions)
3. Approval of data
4. Release of data
5. Basic tabulating of uploaded data.
6. Discussion of problem areas identified by the participants.

## **Day 1.**

Welcome and practical information given by Maris Plikshs and Henrik Degel.

Presentation of the participants.

As some of the participants were representing institutions with only little prior contact to the institutions which traditionally are responsible for the assessment of important marine species in the Baltic area and therefore had no prior experience in working with upload of data and work with FishFrame in general, a basic demonstration and a presentation of the new functions available in FishFrame was done by Teunis Jansen and Henrik Degel. The presentations were made partly by use of Power Point show and partly by demonstration through on-line connection directly to FishFrame.

Special emphasize was made to the process of upload, approval and release of data and were presented and demonstrated by use of examples by the teachers. This included the presentation of existing exchange files and formats, the work flow (timing) of the release process in relation to the ICES WG and the definitions of different user roles defined in FishFrame. Useful “tricks” in EXCEL for converting national data into the exchange format and identifying mistakes in the data were demonstrated.

Because many participants were bringing not personal laptops (and therefore not already having the right setting), it was necessary to spend some time by setting up the computers in order to be able to communicate with FishFrame. Before lunch all computers were properly connected to FishFrame and ready for data upload.

The participants were grouped by country and worked under the supervising of the teachers with upload of national data brought to the workshop by the participants themselves. At the end of day 1, all except 3 countries had successfully uploaded national data including the interactive correction of errors in the data based on error reports produced by FishFrame.

The most time consuming process was the conversion of the data from the national format into the exchange format and it was encouraged that all institutes developed software which were able to extract data from national databases and produce the exchange file automatically. Such programs will save much time and will reduce the number of errors significantly.

## **Day 2.**

The work with uploading and correcting data were continued and all countries/institutes were able to upload data successfully to FishFrame before the exercise was closed. Furthermore all countries completed the outlier analysis and the release of data. All countries will therefore from now on be able to upload and release national data into FishFrame only supported occasionally by the administrators by phone or mail.

The final issue on the agenda was a general discussion of FishFrame and the improvements to be made in the future. The following subjects were discussed:

The inclusion of coastal species in FishFrame.

There was agreement about to include data from coastal areas into FishFrame. This was based on the understanding of the importance of the cooperation between marine and coastal institutes and the understanding of the similarities in the data. Only few changes are necessary in order to be able to include coastal catch data into FishFrame (Landing statistics (L1): change of unit from tons to kg).

The possibility of making reports, which could constitute part of the Technical Reports for the EU sampling programs were raised.

It is an obvious possibility that standard reports are developed in the near future, which cover relevant sections concerning sampling status, sampling quality and main results.

Other reports in the form of data extractions of biological information on the request of STECF on specified aggregation levels are possible to develop in FishFrame, but the present administrators are not prepared to be responsible for such a facility as long as FishFrame is placed in its present framework in DIFRES.

Extra field in landing statistics exchange file (L1).

It was suggested that preliminary data should be uploaded with a stamp indicating if it is preliminary or final figures. The suggestion will be considered in later version of FishFrame.

Creation of web based user groups.

There was a wish of a general forum for discussion of problems and mutual support among users of FishFrame. It was agreed that Germany look into the possibility of creation of a web based user group and investigated the existing technical solutions together with Teunis Jansen. The group should be accessible for all users of FishFrame.

Other matters.

It was suggested to investigate if it is possible to apply for additional funding at the Baltic Sea Regional Project in order make it possible for the Russian participants (who was not able to participate in this workshop) to visit DIFRES in 1-2 days for an introduction in the upload of data into FishFrame.

Based on the very good experience having this workshop, where individual uploading problems were solved very efficient by personal communication, it was suggested by the participants to have a second workshop to clarify unexpected problems which might arise during the upload of 2004 data to be used at the Baltic Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS). The workshop should be held in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2005.

The workshop was terminated by the teachers, who thanked the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute 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.

**BSRP workshop**  
**Data upload, release and management in FishFrame database**  
**Riga 18-19.10.2004**

**List of participants**

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