

WORKING GROUP ON DATRAS GOVERNANCE (WGDG)

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 47

ICES SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

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ISSN number: 2618-1371 | © 2019 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

ICES Scientific Reports

Volume 1 | Issue 47

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Recommended format for purpose of citation:

ICES. 2019. Working Group on DATRAS Governance (WGDG).

ICES Scientific Reports. 1:47. 8 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5540>

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Contents

i	Executive summary	ii
ii	Expert group information	iii
1	Introduction.....	1
2	Terms of Reference	2
3	Progress Report	4
Annex 1:	List of participants.....	6
Annex 2:	Resolutions	7

i Executive summary

The Working Group on DATRAS Governance (WGDG) aims to align the different fish trawl surveys that are contributed to the ICES Database on Trawl Surveys (DATRAS), to evaluate the database user guidance developed by the Data and Information Group (DIG), to oversee and advise on requests for further development of DATRAS, and to provide a platform for end-user feedback. WGDG consists of representatives of ICES working groups delivering data to DATRAS (currently WGBIFS, IBTSWG, WGBEAM), of ICES Data Centre and of DIG.

The group meets four times a year by web conference. From all meetings detailed minutes are available at the working group's SharePoint, including actions for the participants.

Apart from some detailed issues, the group has worked on some general topics in the reporting period. Over the past years some new fields have been introduced for 'new' surveys (i.e. newly developed as well as only recently possible to submit data for) by several ICES survey coordination groups. WGDG has collated the new fields and asked the survey groups using DATRAS if those new fields also had to be applied to current surveys, and if there was a need for more new fields. The outcomes of the discussions are in the respective working group reports. The vocabulary and underlying documents have been updated by the ICES Data Centre with WGDG support.

For the next period, one standard format for data submission to DATRAS is under development. WGDG has agreed that the submission will be based on headers, making submission more flexible than currently. As this is a major change for submitters, they will be involved in the implementation process.

ii Expert group information

Expert group name	Working group on DATRAS governance (WGDG)
Expert group cycle	Multiannual
Year cycle started	2018
Reporting year in cycle	1/3
Chair(s)	Ingeborg de Boois, the Netherlands
Meeting venue(s) and dates	Year 0: [as a governance group under DIG] 05 Feb 2018, 1.5 hour webconference, 6 participants 07 May 2018, 1.5 hour webconference, 6 participants [Year 1, as WGDG] 03 December 2018, 1.5 hour webconference, 5 participants 26 April 2019, 1.5 hour webconference, 5 participants

1 Introduction

Purpose of the working group

The ICES Database on Trawl Surveys (DATRAS) contains data from fish trawl surveys that are used for (stock) assessment purposes. The Working Group on DATRAS Governance aims to align DATRAS for the different surveys, to evaluate the database using guidance developed by Data and Information Group (DIG), to oversee and advise on requests for further development of DATRAS, and to provide a platform for end-user feedback.

The Working group on DATRAS governance consists of representatives of ICES working groups delivering data to DATRAS (currently WGBIFS, IBTSWG, WGBEAM), of ICES Data Centre and of DIG.

Due to the group's composition WGDG is a good platform for combining issues, requirements etc. on DATRAS from different survey groups on one hand, and on the other hand useful place to explain requests from end-users or survey groups to the ICES data centre

An evaluation of experiences of governance groups will soon be available in the annual report of the ICES Data and Information Group (DIG).

2 Terms of Reference

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Elaborate the framework on the governance of DATRAS	DIG provided a governance framework to review databases in the broadest sense of the word. Transparency about the status of the ICES databases is crucial to maintain and improve the quality of the databases and the data.		Generic ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss and fill in the DIG governance framework for DATRAS (trawl survey data as well as litter data) - Provide suggestions to ICES Data Centre for implementation of the improvements
b	Oversee and advise on the interpretation and prioritisation of recommendations from expert groups addressed to DATRAS	Three different groups (IBTSWG, WGBIFS, WGBEAM) currently provide the survey information directly to DATRAS, and some groups use the DATRAS format as a starting point for data submission (e.g. WGIPS). Overview of the general issues and developments is crucial to maintain the system effectively.		Generic ToR	Based on the compilation of recommendations from other expert groups and committees, with a focus on synergy and coherence of similar requests for products and services.
c	Align DATRAS over the different surveys.	Alignment over the surveys will facilitate automation processes at the submitter's side, and provide the opportunity to increase the information provided in the sets that have been in DATRAS from the start.		Generic ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align DATRAS input formats for the surveys where possible - Align QC and QA protocols between the surveys where possible - Align DATRAS CA input format with Acoustic data portal biological data format where possible - Align products for the DATRAS surveys where possible
d	Provide a platform for end user feedback to the DATRAS system. No priority right now, but there should be a platform to get information on what people want as improvements.	A database filled by a significant number of institutes and used by many people and (stock) assessment groups needs to be kept up to date with respect to user requirements without ad-hoc solutions for everyone.		Generic ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek and collate feedback from end users of DATRAS via interaction in working groups and committees, targeted questions, through the ICES web-sites, or feedback given directly to the Data Centre - Provide responses to the end user feedback, and create recommendations to the relevant entities if a follow-up action is appropriate and practical

Meeting frequency and reporting

The group meets four times a year by web conference. From all meetings detailed minutes are available at the working group's SharePoint, including actions for the participants. This report contains the main results of the past year's meetings.

3 Progress Report

Elaborate the framework on the governance of DATRAS (ToR a)

WGDG has provided input to DIG on small modifications of the framework. These have been implemented at DIG 2018. Further progress expected during 2019.

Advice to ICES Data Centre on the interpretation and prioritisation of recommendations (ToR b)

No situations have occurred where advice was needed.

Align DATRAS over the different surveys (ToR c)

There has been frequent communication about DATRAS developments to align the database over different surveys. The origin of the requests and proposals are submitters or survey coordination groups (Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group WGBIFS; International Bottom Trawl Surveys Working Group IBTSWG; Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys WGBEAM), or the ICES Data Centre. The proposals from ICES Data Centre have been discussed by the survey coordination working groups.

Relevant topics discussed in IBTSWG, WGBIFS, WGBEAM in 2018 and 2019, initiated by WGDG:

2018

- Needs for changes in the DATRAS submission and reporting format: over the past years some new fields have been introduced for 'new' surveys (i.e. newly developed as well as only recently possible to submit data for). The groups provided feedback if fields had to be added to current surveys as well. The outcomes of the discussions are in the respective working group reports.
- Completion of vocabulary and underlying documents, like vocabulary for area codings and the related shapefiles.

2019

- Overview of which data should be used for standard products. Up until now, only information where species have been measured and counted are taken into account in the calculated products for the surveys. The response and so, the advice of the working groups which data should be taken into account can be found in their respective reports and will be collated by WGDG to serve as documentation for further development.
- Overview of the use of commercial vessels in the survey time-series.
- Overview of the use of calculated ages (e.g. based on length or age distributions in other hauls) for especially 0-group fish.

Main results on alignment:

- One standard format for data submission to DATRAS is under development. The submission will be based on headers, making submission more flexible than currently. As this is a major change for submitters, they will be involved in the implementation process.

Provide a platform for end user feedback to the DATRAS system (ToR d)

Specific topics that have been discussed based on end-user and/or data-submitter feedback are:

- Request to add scientific species names in the Exchange file. It will be investigated if this is doable from a technical point of view. An alternative solution is to provide additional file with aphia/scientific name mapping. At first the full list, if it works ok, then may be only the file with the relevant species. (work in progress)
- Allow multiple species validity values for the same haul, species and sex. It quite often occurs that e.g. edible crab is measured in a haul and a smashed crab is only counted, as it could be measured. As it seems to be only a screening facility issue and not a database-issue: change error into a warning. (work in progress)
Connected to that, facilitate the possibility to add the subsampling factor and number counted for SpecVal=4.
- Allow 'neutral' as a valid value for sex of shrimp.

Annex 1: List of participants

Name	Institute	Country (of institute)	Email
Wim Allegaert	ILVO	Belgium	Wim.allegaert@ilvo-vlaanderen.be
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From 15 May 2019 the group composition will change:

- Anna Osypchuk will leave the group due to changed responsibilities
- Kai Wieland (DTU Aqua, Denmark) has been added to the group.

Annex 2: Resolutions

2018/MA2/EOSG04 The Working Group on DATRAS Governance (WGDG), started in October 2018 and chaired by Ingeborg de Boois, Netherlands, will meet by web conference, four times per year and may also meet physically once per year, to work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

WGDG will report on the activities of 2018 (the first year) by March the following year to EOSG and DIG.

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science plan codes	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Further evolve the framework on the governance of DATRAS	DIG had provided a governance framework to review a database in the broadest sense of the word. Transparency about the status of the ICES databases is crucial to maintain and improve the quality of the databases and the data.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	A functional and efficient framework with clear responsibilities and tasks for the governance of DATRAS.
b	Oversee and advise on the interpretation and prioritisation of recommendations from expert groups addressed to DATRAS	Three different groups (IBTSWG, WGBIFS, WGBEAM) currently provide the survey information directly to DATRAS, and some groups use the DATRAS format as a starting point for data submission (e.g. WGIPS). Overview of the general issues and developments is crucial to maintain the system effectively.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	A table of prioritised requests from data providers and data users for consideration by the data centre for improvements and updates to the data services on trawl and litter data based on the ICES data infrastructure.
c	Facilitate common functionality in terms of data providers and data user across different surveys to improve upload efficiency and allow broader perspectives (covered by more than one survey) can be effectively addressed.	Alignment over the surveys will facilitate automation processes at the submitter's side, and provide the opportunity to increase the information provided in the sets that have been in DATRAS from the start.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	
d	Provide a platform for end user feedback to the DATRAS system, as well as feedback on the outcomes of those suggestions.	A database filled by a significant number of institutes and used by many people and (stock) assessment groups needs to be kept up to date with respect to user requirements without ad-hoc solutions for everyone.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	Links to TOR b providing the input for that task in future.

Supporting information

Priority	
Resource requirements	A commitment of time from the members of the group consistent with progressing actions identified in the quarterly meetings
Participants	Members of ICES Data Centre involved in DATRAS developments, chair with a direct link with (=participating in) DIG, representatives of survey groups submitting data to DATRAS (currently WGBIFS, IBTSWG, WGBEAM)
Secretariat facilities	Community Sharepoint site, Remote meeting facilities.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	This is an integral component to the overall Quality Assurance framework (of Advice) that ACOM together with the Coordination group are describing
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with the fish trawl survey groups. There is a strong linkage to DIG as the main umbrella for data/software governance structures.
Linkages to other organizations	No