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Our Ref: H.4/LWC/DM/JF/RKZ/ck

20 October 2021

Subject: Data call: Data submission for ICES selected stocks under WKMegrim 2022

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for the WKMegrim 2022 benchmark. The data will be used by the ICES Benchmark Workshop for selected Megrim Stocks (WKMegrim) and in the production of ICES Advice.

The data call is also available from the ICES website at: <https://www.ices.dk/data/tools/Pages/Data-calls.aspx>

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk. For questions on data submission, please contact: data.call@ices.dk.

Sincerely,



Lotte Worsøe Clausen
Head of the Advisory Department

CC: Cristina Silva and Ching Villanueva (WGBIE co-chairs); DG-MARE (EC).



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the Exploration of the Sea
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Data call: Data submission for ICES Benchmark Workshop for selected Megrims Stocks (WKMegrims)

1. Scope of the Data call

ICES Member Countries are requested to provide LPUEs, biological and survey data for:

ldb.27.8c9a: Four-spot megrim (*Lepidorhombus boscii*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (southern Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters East)

meg.27.8c9a: Megrims (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (Cantabrian Sea and Atlantic Iberian waters)

meg.27.7b-k8abd: Megrims (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*) in divisions 7.b-k, 8.a-b, and 8.d (west and southwest of Ireland, Bay of Biscay)

2. Rationale

The data requested will be used by the ICES Benchmark Workshop for selected Megrims Stocks (WKMegrims). The end product of the benchmark will be an agreed set of data and assessment methodology to be used in future update assessments and as basis for advice for these stocks.

3. Legal framework

Generically, all the governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995* Fish Stocks agreement article 5 and 6 to incorporate fisheries impacts on other components of marine ecosystems and WSSD 2002 article 30 to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to oceans policy including fisheries.

For EU Member States, this data call is under the DCF regulation ((EC) No 2017/1004 and Commission Decision 2016/1251/EU) and in particular, Article 17(3) of regulation (EC) No 2017/1004 which states *"...requests made by end-users of scientific data in order to serve as a basis for advice to fisheries management, Member States shall ensure that relevant detailed and aggregated data are updated and made available to the relevant end-users of scientific data within the deadlines set in the request..."*

For non-EU states with fisheries operating in the North Atlantic, there is a requirement to make fisheries data available to support fisheries management under OSPAR, HELCOM, and UNCLOS.

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection, as referred to in paragraph (9) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004.

4. Deadlines

ICES requests that the data be delivered by **19 November 2021**. The Data Evaluation WK is scheduled for 16-19 November, so if possible receiving data in advance of this would be highly appreciated.

* United Nations (UN). 2011. Agreement related to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?OpenElement>

5. Data to report

5.1 Stocks

ldb.27.8c9a: Four-spot megrim (*Lepidorhombus boscii*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (southern Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters East)

meg.27.8c9a: Megrim (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (Cantabrian Sea and Atlantic Iberian waters)

meg.27.7b-k8abd: Megrim (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*) in divisions 7.b-k, 8.a-b, and 8.d (west and southwest of Ireland, Bay of Biscay)

5.2 Geographic and temporal scope

Data should be reported by ICES Division, including the following areas:

ICES divisions 7.b-k, 8.a-b, 8.d, 8.c and 9.a

Year ranges are specified below for each required data type.

5.3 Data types

The following data series are requested:

5.3.1. Fisheries dependent data

For meg.27.7b-k8abd standardized LPUE time series data by age are requested for:

- Spain: SP-VIGOTR7 (VIGO84, VIGO99); time series of standardized LPUE by age from 1984-1998 and 1999 to 2020.
- Ireland: IRL TBB tuning index; time series of standardized LPUE by age from 1995 to 2020.

5.3.2. Scientific Survey data

For ldb.27.8c9a data are requested to submit time series of length composition (at 1cm intervals) from the following scientific surveys:

- Portugal NepS: Nephrops Survey Offshore (G2913) from 1997 to 2020

5.3.3. Life history data

For meg.27.7b-k8abd, time series from commercial catches or surveys of proportion of mature fish at age by year, for the period 1984-2020.

Note that maturity data are requested at the scale revised at WKASMSF See Table 1. If another scale is used, please document it.

Table 1. Maturity ogive scale to be applied.

Table 1 Maturity ogive scale to be applied (see [WKASMSF 2018](#) Table 4.1), referred to as the 'WKMATCH 2012 maturity scale revised' and is the international scale for reporting.

State	Stage	Possible sub-stages
SI. Sexually immature	A. Immature	
SM. Sexually mature	B. Developing	Ba. Developing but functionally immature (first-time developer)
		Bb. Developing and functionally mature
	C. Spawning	Ca. Actively spawning
		Cb. Spawning capable
	D. Regressing/Regenerating	Da. Regressing
		Db. Regenerating
	E. Omitted spawning	
F. Abnormal		

6 Data submission

All data files should be submitted in as few e-mails as possible to data.call@ices.dk.

7. Contact information

For support concerning any data call issues about the data call please contact the Advisory Department (Advice@ices.dk).

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