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ICES
CIEM



Our Ref: L.27/ACB/CH

30 January 2014

Subject: Data call for VMS/logbook data for fishing activities in the OSPAR areas I-V in support of ICES advice on the spatial and temporal bottom fishing intensity as requested by OSPAR and standing requests from NEAFC and the EC

International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

The enclosed document describes the rationale, scope of call, and technical details.

General Secretary
Anne Christine Brusendorff

The data will be used as a basis for ICES response to OSPAR request 5/2014: “the spatial and temporal description and analysis of bottom fishing intensity in the OSPAR area on the basis of high resolution VMS and logbook data and the standing requests from NEAFC and the EC regarding impact of fisheries on other components of the ecosystem such as cold water corals and sponges. The overall aim is to advise and inform on the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment including the benthic habitat.

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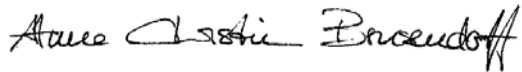
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The OSPAR Quality Status Report 2010 highlighted the continued impact of fishing pressure on marine ecosystems and the importance of understanding these impacts for developing appropriate measures for the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity, within OSPAR’s mandate.

OSPAR also noted the on-going work within some of its committees and correspondence groups on cumulative effects and on the development of common biodiversity indicators relating to Descriptor 6 (sea floor integrity) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Consequently the Contracting Parties have identified the need to map spatial and temporal intensity of bottom fishing;

The advice will be delivered according to the MSFD regions and sub regions at a scale that is appropriate to inform decision making depending on availability of data and the precision achievable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Christine Brusendorff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Anne Christine Brusendorff

General Secretary

CC: Darius Campbell (OSPAR), John Mouat (OSPAR), Grainne Ni Chonchuir (PGCCDBS chair), Mike Armstrong (PGCCDBS chair), Amelie Knapp (EC), Bas Drukker (EC), Ken Patterson (EC), Josefine Egekvist (chair of WGSFD) , Neil Golding (chair of WGDEC).

Data call for VMS/logbook data for fishing activities in the OSPAR areas I-V in support of ICES advice on the spatial and temporal bottom fishing intensity as requested by OSPAR and standing requests from NEAFC and the EC.

Scope of call

VMS anonymized data on fishing activities from 2009 to 2012 of fleets in the OSPAR areas I-V according to the OSPAR definition (ref. map: http://ices.dk/marine-data/maps/Documents/OSPAR_Boundary.pdf). Shapefiles can be found on: http://geo.ices.dk/viewer.php?add_layers=ext_ref:ospar_regions_without_coastline.

Rationale

ICES has a standing request from the European Commission to advise and inform on the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment. Currently it provides advice on the impact of fishing on birds and mammals. It is required to expand this advice to the impact on benthic habitats. The DCF makes it a requirement to report on spatial fishing activities in relation to habitat (indicators 5, 6 and 7 of Annex XIII to Commission Decision (2010/93/EU)) and ICES is requested by the Commission to provide these indicators. VMS data from vessels, coupled with log book data, is currently the most practical and cost-effective way to describe the spatial dynamics of fishing activities. ICES is thus mandated to request VMS information, at high resolution (spatial and temporal) to provide this advice. This mandate is supported by the current EU data collection framework (DCF) and the Aarhus Convention (2001).

ICES has a standing request from NEAFC to continue update cold-water coral and sponge maps and the information underpinning such maps.

OSPAR is the marine management organization for the North East Atlantic and it underpins its actions through scientific advice. EU Member States utilize OSPAR assessments to implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Compared to other sectors, cross-border understanding of fishing activities is weak and thus integrated advice cannot be currently provided to inform management decisions.

The rationale for the call is that ICES and OSPAR share the mission of advising on the impacts of fishing and the use of space in the OSPAR area. By creating a data call, the need for the data is reconciled with a rational approach to the cost of extracting and submitting the data by the states.

How to report the data

Format: The call asks for VMS/logbook data that records the position/speed, gear type etc. of the vessel. The time period covered is 2009 to 2012. The data can be reported in plain text file either in Fish Frame format (see Annex 1) or other self-describing formats.

Resolution: Data should be reported anonymised and aggregated in a grid of concise spatial query and representation system of 0.05 x 0.05 degree grid using the approach of C-square reference XXXX:XXX:XXX:X (see Rees 2003). Data should be provided for bottom contacting gears at métier level 6.

Submission: The data and any supporting information should be reported to the ICES secure website [https://community.ices.dk/data/ICES VMS data Call](https://community.ices.dk/data/ICES_VMS_data_Call). Please contact accessions@ices.dk for a country specific login.

Timing: The data should be submitted by 3rd March 2014.

Terms of the use: Data will be used by ICES.

Reference: [Rees, T. 2003. "C-square s", a ne w spatial inde xin g syste m and its applicability to the description of oceanographic datasets. Oceanography, 16\(1\), 11–19.](#)

Annex 1 Fish Frame Exchange format for data. Table to be used for reporting VMS data.

Order	Name	Type	Req.	Basic checks	Comments
1	Record type *	String	M		Fixed value VE
2	Vessel Flag Country *	String	M	Code list	ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes. The flag country of the vessel.
3	Year *	Integer	M	Code list	1900 to 3000
4	Quarter *	Integer	M	Code list	1 to 4.
5	Month *	Integer	M	Code list	1 to 12
6	Area*	String	M	Code list	Please report on OSPAR areas.
7	C-square *	String	M	Code list	0.05x0.05 degree, C-square reference XXXX:XXX:XXX:X
8	Fishing activity category National *	String	O	Code list	Fishing activity category – <i>National</i> coding system. Bound to the Nantes matrix level 4 as children i.e. an alternative level 5+6.
9	Fishing activity category European lvl 6 *	String	M	Code list	Fishing activity category – <i>Level 6</i> in the Nantes matrix (SGRN 06-03). Only bottom contacting gears.
10	Fishing hour	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	Fishing hour calculated from VMS data.
11	kW*fishing hour	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	
12	Tot weight	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	Total landings of all species caught. In kg
13	Tot value	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	Total value of all species caught. In Euro

* = The field is a key field.

The references to code lists are the lists in the regular FishFrame exchange format description ([ICES Cooperative Research Report 296, 2009](#))

Annex 2 Table to be used for reporting on vessels smaller than 12m/15 m.

VMS data are mandatory for vessels of length 15 meter and above for the years 2009-2011 and for vessels of length 12 meters and above in 2012. Therefore logbook data by ICES rectangle can give spatial information on a lower level on how well the fisheries are covered by VMS data, which is important for decision making.

Order	Name	Type	Req.	Basic checks	Comments
1	Record type *	String	M		Fixed value LE
2	Vessel Flag Country *	String	M	Code list	ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes. The flag country of the vessel.
3	Year *	Integer	M	Code list	1900 to 3000
4	Quarter *	Integer	M	Code list	1 to 4.
5	Month *	Integer	M	Code list	1 to 12
6	ICES statistical rectangle	String	M	Code list	Uppcase, e.g. 45F2
7	Fishing activity category National *	String	O	Code list	Fishing activity category – <i>National</i> coding system. Bound to the Nantes matrix level 4 as children i.e. an alternative level 5+6.
8	Fishing activity category European lvl 6 *	String	M	Code list	Fishing activity category – <i>Level 6</i> in the Nantes matrix (SGRN 06-03). Only bottom contacting gears.
9	Vessel length category	String	M	Code list	Vessel length grouped into: “<12” “12-15”
10	FishingDays	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	Number of fishing days by ICES rectangle. If a vessel fished in several ICES squares one day, the day will be divided by the number of ICES rectangles.
11	kW*fishing days	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	
12	Tot weight	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	Total landings of all species caught. In kg
13	Tot value	Decimal numeral	M	1 to 9999999999	Total value of all species caught. In Euro