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Our Ref:	L.27/ACB/IM/mo	05 April 2017

Subject: Data call for elasmobranch fishes 2017: Landings, discards and biological sample in support of the ICES fisheries advice in 2017
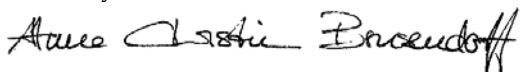
Dear Reader

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for 2017 update stock assessments for elasmobranch fishes by WGEF. Also, enclosed are four annexes with additional information.

The data will be used by ICES expert groups contributing to the advisory process addressing request for advice on fisheries and fish stocks from ICES advice recipients.

For countries which are also EU members this data call is under the Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 and No 665/2008.

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk. For support concerning InterCatch issues please contact: InterCatchsupport@ices.dk. For questions on data submission, please contact: accessions@ices.dk.

Sincerely,

Anne Christine Brusendorff
General Secretary

CC: Paddy Walker (WGEF Co-Chair); Samuel Shepard (WGEF Co-Chair); Venetia Kostopoulou (DG MARE, DCF); Bas Drukker (DG MARE, DCF)

Data call: Data submission for catches of elasmobranch species (2017) in support of the ICES fisheries advice and Proxies application

ICES Member Countries are requested to provide, for ICES elasmobranch fish stocks:

1. Landings data

Landings for all elasmobranchs for 2015 and 2016 (see data call 2016)

Provide national landings data for all categories of elasmobranch fish for 2015-2016. These data should be provided in a single file (e.g. ES_Elasmobranch_Landings2015_2016.csv or *.xls) and should follow the Intercatch SI format (annex 2), and be reported by Year, Fleet (see below), ICES Division and landings should be provided in tonnes (three decimal places).

Where practicable, 'fleet' data should be provided for the following categories: (i) beam trawl, (ii) all other bottom trawls (including otter and pair trawls), (iii) pelagic trawls, (iv) hooks and lines, (v) nets, (vi) seines and (vii) all other gears. If Member States are unable to provide data by these named gear categories, then data should be submitted at Level 2.

Submitted data should include national landings for all elasmobranch species in FAO area 27, as well as national landings for FAO areas 34 (cyo-nea, guq-nea), 34 and 27 (por-nea, gag-nea, trk-nea) and 21,31,34,37 (thr-nea, bsk-nea).

2. Discards data (quantities)

Estimated discards (tonnes) by fleet (as described above) or métiers at DCF level 5 or more for the years 2009 (where possible, and no later than 2011) -2016 for the following stocks:

- *Raja clavata* Subarea 4 and Div 7.d
- *Leucoraja naevus* Subarea 4
- *Raja brachyura* Division 4.c and 7.d
- *Raja brachyura* Division 4.a and 6.a
- *Raja montagui* Subarea 4 and Div 7.d
- *Mustelus* spp. in NE Atlantic
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula) in Divisions 8c and 9a
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula) in Divisions 8a,b,d
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula) in Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a–c, e–j
- Greater-spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus stellaris) in Subareas 6 and 7
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula) in Subarea 4, and Divisions 3a and 7d

Nations are also requested to provide information on the raising methods used. Methods may be changed over years as e.g. landings by species may not be available before 2011.

3. Length composition

Length composition of the total catch, identified to discards and landings, from at least the three most recent consecutive years (e.g. 2016, 2015, 2014) alongside data quantity and quality information[1] and supporting information on life history parameters[2] for the species below.

- *Raja clavata* Subarea 4 and Div 7.d
- *Leucoraja naevus* Subarea 4
- *Raja brachyura* Division 4.c and 7.d
- *Raja brachyura* Division 4.a and 6.a
- *Raja montagui* Subarea 4 and Div 7.d
- *Mustelus* spp. in NE Atlantic
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in Divisions 8c and 9a
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in Divisions 8a,b,d
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in Subarea 6 and Divisions 7a–c, e–j
- Greater-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*) in Subareas 6 and 7
- Lesser-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in Subarea 4, and Divisions 3a and 7d

These data should be provided from observer programmes (if both discarded and retained fish have been sampled) or from discard observer programmes and market sampling programmes.

Nations are also requested to provide information on the source of data and methods used

National coordinators for France, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, UK should liaise with their national WGEF delegates to ensure that additional fields, as indicated in the WKSHARKS report, are completed prior to submission to accessions@ices.dk*. For other Member States, data can be submitted directly to ICES accessions.*

Data should be submitted to the ICES Secretariat by 05th May 2017. A list of relevant FAO codes is available on annex 1.

Contacts

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: *advice@ices.dk* and the WG chairs, Samuel Shephard *Sam.Shephard@fisheriesireland.ie* and *Paddy Walker paddy.walker@hvhl.nl*.

For questions on data submission, please contact: *accessions@ices.dk*

For support concerning InterCatch format issues please contact: *InterCatchsupport@ices.dk*

References

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[1] "Data quality and quantity information" includes a set of simple indicators that will allow ICES Expert Groups to get a general idea on the quantity and quality data submitted. See Annex 4a for more details.

[2] "Supporting information on life history parameters" includes information on specific life history traits, if available, noting that some candidate reference points require input on length at first maturity (L_{mat}), growth parameters (e.g., L_{inf}, K) and M (natural mortality). See Annex 4b for more details.

ICES, 2016. Report of the Workshop to compile and refine catch and landings of elasmobranchs. 19-21 January 2016, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:40. 69 pp.

ICES, 2017. Report of the Workshop to compile and refine catch and landings of elasmobranchs (WKSHARK3). 20-24 February 2017, Nantes, France. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:XX. XX pp.