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International Council for the
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Our Ref: L.27/ACB/HS/hgj

21 December 2015

Subject: Data call 2016: Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) landings, discards and biological sampling data from 2015 quarter one in support the Inter-Benchmark protocol on blue whiting (IBPBLW) in 2016.

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of this data call and one annex outlining the additional data requested for the upcoming IBPBLW.

The data will be used by an ICES expert group and will contribute to the advisory process.

For countries which are also EU members this data call is under the Council regulation (EC) No 199/2008. This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection as referred to in paragraph (16) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008.

In case of questions please contact the ICES Secretariat (advice@ices.dk, InterCatchsupport@ices.dk) for clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Christine Brusendorff'.

Anne Christine Brusendorff

CC: Patrícia Gonçalves (IBPBLW chair), Bas Drukker (DCF staff, DG-Mare), Venetia Kostopoulou (DCF staff, DG-Mare).

Data call: submission for blue whiting stock data to support the InterBenchmark Process of Blue Whiting (IBPBLW)

Scope of the Data call

Recipients of the call are requested to provide landings (including Below Minimum Size (BMS) landings), discards (including logbook registered discards)¹ and biological data from 2015 1st quarter for blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in ICES Subareas I-IX, XII, and XIV.

Deadline

ICES requests the data to be delivered by **1st of March 2016** to provide sufficient time for additional quality assurance prior to the Inter-Benchmark process of Blue Whiting meeting.

Data submission

ICES Member Countries are requested to supply data from 2015 quarter 1st to InterCatch (specified as "IC" in Annex 1) and to ICES Secretariat via email (accessions@ices.dk) (specified as "AC" in Annex 1). For certain types of data submission may only be required to accessions@ices.dk. All details on the requested data are given in Annex 1.

Data emailed to accessions@ices.dk should have subject and filename as follows:

"2016 IBPBLW DC whb-comb [country] [type of data]"

ICES Secretariat will forward the data file to the stock coordinator and IBPBLW chair.

NEAFC Areas

Catches inside and outside the NEAFC regulatory area should be identified.

How to report to InterCatch

The InterCatch formatted national data should be imported into InterCatch, which is available at this link: <https://intercatch.ices.dk/Login.aspx>.

Please see the 'InterCatch Exchange Manuals' on the ICES website for information on the required exchange format and used codes at <http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/InterCatch.aspx>. An overview of the data fields used in the InterCatch exchange format are detailed in Annex 2.

New catch categories in InterCatch

Landing, 'L'

The 'Landing' catch category in InterCatch will cover the landing as it has done previously and it will apply to landings above minimum size.

Discard, 'D'

The 'Discard' catch category in InterCatch will cover the discard as it has done previously and will continue to be used. This is the part of the catch, which is thrown overboard into the sea and not registered in the logbook. This is based on fishery observer estimations.

¹ Throughout the present document, the term "landings" includes BMS landings and the term "discards" includes logbook registered discards.

BMS Landing, 'B' (new)

Relevant for stocks under landing obligation/discard ban. The BMS landing will consist of fish Below Minimum Size (BMS) and damaged fish.

Logbook Registered Discard, 'R' (new)

Relevant for stocks under landing obligation/discard ban. Logbook registered discard are discards, which are registered in the logbook and are under the exemption rules (e.g. de minimis). Damaged fish can be included under this Logbook registered discard. The catch categories are shown in the table below.

Catch category in InterCatch	Description	Catch category code	Use by stocks	Estimations in InterCatch are possible	Comment
Landing	Landing above minimum size	L	All stocks	No	Landings above minimum size.
BMS Landing	Landing Below Minimum Size (BMS) and damaged fish	B	Stocks under landing obligation/discard ban	No	This is used for the few species under landing obligation/discard ban, and corresponds to a fraction of the catch that was discarded before. If countries want to make adjustments/estimations of this category, it has to be done before importing the data into InterCatch. Damaged fish can be included under this catch category.
Discard	Discard	D	All stocks	Yes	Fishery observer estimation. If discards are used in the assessment and there are no observed discards, a zero should be entered in InterCatch, so no discards are estimated.
Logbook Registered Discard	Logbook registered discard and damaged fish (including de minimis)	R	Stocks under landing obligation/discard ban	No	Discards which are registered in the logbook and are under the exemption rules (e.g. de minimis). Damaged fish can be

					included under this catch category.
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Zero Catch

If there has been zero landings, BMS landings, discards or Logbook registered discards for the stock from a country participating in the fishery, a value of zero has to be entered to InterCatch, to show that data are not missing. An import of only one zero catch stratum is acceptable for each catch category. To import a zero catch for each strata, for which there is a fishery, is not needed. E.g. if there is zero Logbook registered discards for a country, a single import of zero catch for one stratum for Logbook registered discards is accepted. For this zero catch stratum select the area with the most fishery, SeasonType 'Year' and season '2015'. It is also relevant to import a zero catch, where there has been a fishery for a catch category, but some quarters or areas have no catches/fishery (e.g. where there are catches in quarter 1, 2 and 4 but not in 3, then a catch of zero should be added for quarter 3).

Units used in InterCatch

Landings, discards, and biological sampling data: As specified in InterCatch Exchange Format Year must be entered as four digits, e.g. "2015".

Length and age data to InterCatch

When age or length data are imported it is requested to fill in the following age and length sampling information fields for both landing and discard samples:

- Number samples of length, field: NumSamplesLngt
- Number length measured, field: NumLngtMeas
- Number samples of age, field: NumSamplesAge
- Number age measured, field: NumAgeMeas

The default units of the samples in the record types "NumSamplesLngt" and "NumSamplesAge" of the species data record should be number of hauls, in any doubt contact the stock coordinator. The used unit should be given in the InterCatch species information field named "InfoStockCoordinator". The typical entry could be: "Number of hauls" but it could also be "Number of trips" or "Number of boxes". This information allows between-country comparisons of sampling units.

Conversions to InterCatch Format

To ease the process of converting the national data into the InterCatch format Andrew Campbell from Ireland has made the conversion tool "InterCatchFileMaker", which converts data manually entered in the 'Exchange format spreadsheet' into a file in the InterCatch format. The conversion tool "InterCatchFileMaker" can be downloaded from the ICES webpage for InterCatch exchange format under 'Format conversion tools' ([link](#)). The download includes a spreadsheet in which the landings and sampling data can be placed; the program then converts the data into the InterCatch format.

- 1) If "InterCatchFilemaker" conversion program and the exchange format spreadsheet have been used to convert your data to InterCatch format, then the values in the data field
- 2) "NumSamplesAge" in the InterCatch format file must be entered manually.
- 3) If in some areas and quarters, there are only length samples available (age samples are missing), then it is possible to use ALKs from neighboring areas or quarters to calculate CANUM and WECA for "Species Data" records, before importing data to InterCatch. In this case "-9" must be entered in the data fields of "NumSamplesAge" and "NumAgeMeas".

Contacts

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

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

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

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection as referred to in paragraph (16) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008.

NB.: Please see Annex 1.

Annex 2. Commercial catch and sample data used in InterCatch.

Table HI. InterCatch Header Information fields.

Start/Order	Field Name	Width	Mandatory	Data Type
HI Header Information				
1	RecordType	2	✓	char
2	Country	3	✓	char
3	Year	4	✓	char
4	SeasonType	10	✓	char
5	Season	4	✓	char
6	Fleet	60	✓	char
7	AreaType	10	✓	char
8	FishingArea	10	✓	char
9	DepthRange	10		char
10	UnitEffort	3		char
11	Effort	15		decimal4
12	AreaQualifier	20		char

Table SI. InterCatch species information fields.

Start/Order	Field Name	Width	Mandatory	Data Type
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SI Species Information				
1	RecordType	2	✓	char
2	Country	3	✓	char
3	Year	4	✓	char
4	SeasonType	10	✓	char
5	Season	4	✓	char
6	Fleet	60	✓	char
7	AreaType	10	✓	char
8	FishingArea	10	✓	char
9	DepthRange	10	✓	char
10	Species	3	✓	char
11	Stock	10	✓	char
12	CatchCategory	2	✓	char
13	ReportingCategory	2	✓	char
14	DataToFrom	10		char
15	Usage	2		char
16	SamplesOrigin	5		char
17	QualityFlag	2		char
18	UnitCATON	2	✓	char
19	CATON	20	✓	decimal12
20	OffLandings	7		int
21	varCATON	20		decimal12
22	InfoFleet	250		char
23	InfoStockCoordinator	250		char
24	InfoGeneral	250		char

Table SD. InterCatch species data fields.

Start/Order	Field Name	Width	Mandatory	Data Type
SD Species Data (Sample Data)				
1	RecordType	2	✓	char
2	Country	3	✓	char
3	Year	4	✓	char
4	SeasonType	10	✓	char
5	Season	4	✓	char
6	Fleet	60	✓	char
7	AreaType	10	✓	char
8	FishingArea	10	✓	char
9	DepthRange	10	✓	char
10	Species	3	✓	char
11	Stock	10	✓	char
12	CatchCategory	2	✓	char
13	ReportingCategory	2	✓	char
14	Sex	2		char
15	CANUMtype	7	✓	char
16	AgeLength	2	✓	int
17	PlusGroup	2		int
18	SampledCatch	5		int
19	NumSamplesLngt	5		int
20	NumLngtMeas	5		int
21	NumSamplesAge	5		int
22	NumAgeMeas	5		int
23	unitMeanWeight	3	✓	char
24	unitCANUM	2	✓	char
25	UnitAgeOrLength	4	✓	char
26	UnitMeanLength	3		char
27	Maturity	2		char

28	NumberCaught	20	✓	decimal12
29	MeanWeight	20	✓	decimal12
30	MeanLength	20		decimal12
31	varNumLanded	20		decimal12
32	varWgtLanded	20		decimal12
33	varLgtLanded	20		decimal12

InterCatch commercial catch and sample data file example (using the HI, SI and SD record types).

Example 1. Landing data for quarter 1, area division IIa, where only landing data (no SD-records) is given for metier SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all, while landing data and age sample data (SD-records) are given for metier OTB_DEF_80-99_0_0:

```

HI,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,IIa,NA,NA,25,NA
SI,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,NA,H,U,NA,t,500,500,-9
HI,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,NA,1000,NA
SI,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,NA,H,U,NA,t,3677,3677,-9,Fleet which does most of the
fishing,,
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,1,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,2616.4,0.011,12.58,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,2,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,2701.4,0.043,19.31,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,3,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,2501.0,0.087,23.37,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,4,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,6200.8,0.134,26.34,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,5,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,4580.8,0.164,28.03,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,6,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,4456.8,0.176,28.68,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,7,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,2831.6,0.188,29.39,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,1,OTB_DEF_80-
99_0_0,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,8,15,0,16,7410,16,1674,kg,k,year,cm,NA,2051.5,0.197,29.82,-9,-9,-9
    
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Example 2. Landing and discard data for quarter 4, area division IIa, metier SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all, where there is one HI-record for landing and discard data (CATON/weight) and age sample data (SD-records) for both landings and discards:

```

HI,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,IIa,NA,NA,100,NA
SI,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,NA,H,U,NA,t,197,197,-9,,,
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,0,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,337.1,0.01
12,11.94,-9,-9,-9
SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,IIa,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,1,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,288.8,0.03
74,17.88,-9,-9,-9
    
```

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,2,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,305.99,0.065,21.23,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,3,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,244.34,0.086,22.25,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,4,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,449.35,0.133,25.28,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,5,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,277.47,0.125,24.94,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,6,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,162.47,0.143,26.01,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,7,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,91.56,0.167,27.34,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Quarter,4,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,L,R,N,age,8,15,0,2,1377,2,254,kg,k,year,cm,NA,51.25,0.162,26.86,-9,-9,-9

HI,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,NA,-9,NA

SI,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,NA,H,U,NA,t,197,0,-9,,

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,0,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,337.76,0.011,11.94,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,1,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,288.55,0.037,17.88,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,2,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,305.09,0.067,21.23,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,3,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,244.74,0.082,22.25,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,4,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,449.55,0.133,25.28,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,5,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,277.97,0.125,24.94,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,6,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,162.17,0.143,26.01,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,7,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,91.026,0.167,27.34,-9,-9,-9

SD,UKS,2013,Year,2013,SDN_DEF_>=120_0_0_all,Div,Ila,NA,AAS,NA,D,R,N,age,8,15,0,5,400,5,70,kg,k,year,cm,NA,51.185,0.162,26.86,-9,-9,-9