

To: National Fisheries Statistical Officers

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Our Ref: L.27/ACB/AO

19 February 2016

Subject: Data call 2016: Preliminary fish catch statistics 2015 for the limited list of species in support of the ICES fisheries advice in 2016.

Dear reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of this Data call 2016 and 3 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 and shellfish 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.

All additional data needed to conduct the 2016 update assessments will be requested in a separate data call.

In case of questions please contact the ICES Secretariat (catch.data@ices.dk) for clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Christine Brusendorff".

Anne Christine Brusendorff

General Secretary

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Data call: Preliminary catch figures 2015 for the limited list of species for ICES fisheries advisory work

Scope of the Data call

ICES Member Countries are requested to provide preliminary catch data within fishing area 27 from 2015.

Catches should be reported for the species enlisted in Annex 1. All countries having catch data on the requested species should submit data for as detailed area level as possible. List of area references can be reviewed in the Annex 2.

Primary target of this data collection is to provide latest data for fish stock assessments conducted by ICES Expert Groups.

Deadline

ICES requests the data to be delivered by the 18th of February 2016 to provide enough time for data formatting, quality assurance, and publishing for use by ICES Expert Groups. If the country has difficulties meeting the deadline, respective information should be sent to catch.data@ices.dk.

Rationale

ICES is requested to provide fisheries advice regarding stocks in the ICES' ecoregions. This advice to fisheries management is developed on the basis of the best available data from national authorities, and the analysis of these data by ICES Expert Groups.

Data submission

ICES Member Countries are requested to deliver preliminary catch statistics 2015 for the limited list of species to ICES via catch.data@ices.dk.

Species Latin names or WoRMS AphiaID should be used in the data submissions. The list of species, for which data should be prepared, is given in Annex 1.

Catch-per-species figures should be delivered for all areas within the Northeast Atlantic, where the national fishing activities took place. Catches within as detailed area unit as possible should be reported. Catches in NEAFC-regulated areas should be separated from the non-NEAFC areas by the respective area references. The list of area references with descriptions is given in Annex 2.

Catch data should be reported in tonnes live weight. Use of decimals is allowed to enhance the reporting precision.

Data should be compiled into a file with structure as in the Annex 3. Submissions in variety of formats are allowed: Text (csv), Excel (xls,xlsx,xlsm), xml.