



Regional Coordination Group
on Economics Issues

Regional Coordination Group on Economics Issues

RCG ECON ANNUAL REPORT

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RCG ECON 2025 REPORT

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Contents

Contents.....	1
Acronyms.....	2
Executive summary.....	3
1. Administrative details.....	7
2. Terms of Reference.....	8
3. List of Recommendations.....	9
4. List of Outcomes and Achievements of RCG ECON in this delivery period.....	24
5. Progress report on ToRs and work plan.....	25
5.1. ToR 1. Stakeholder feedback presentation by the Commission.....	25
5.2. ToR 2. Feedback from the STECF EWGs.....	26
5.3. ToR 3. RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries.....	27
5.4. ToR 4. RCG Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation - update on progress.....	28
5.5. ToR 5. Pan regional ISSG RWP – Feedback.....	30
5.6. ToR 6 Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues.....	33
5.7. ToR 7. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Valuation of Capital.....	35
5.8. ToR 8 Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture...	37
5.9. ToR 9. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Low active and active vessels.....	40
5.10. ToR 10. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Data collection of social aspects.....	44
5.11. ToR 11. RCG ECON and ICES WGECON collaboration.....	46
6. Next meetings.....	47
Annex I. List of Participants.....	48
Annex II. Agenda for RCG ECON 2025.....	51

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Acronyms

AC	Advisory Council
AER	Annual Economic Report
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
COM	Commission
DCF	Data Collection Framework
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DM	Decision Meeting
DTMT	Data Transmission Monitoring Tools
EC	European Commission
ECON	Economic Issues
EMFAF	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
ESS	European Statistical System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Fisheries Dependent Information
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ISSG	Intersessional Subgroup
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LDF	Long Distance Fisheries
LM	Liaison Meeting
LP	Large Pelagics
Med & BS	Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
MS	Member State
NANSEA	North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Arctic
NFP	National Fisheries Profile
NWP	National Work Plan
PIM	Perpetual Inventory Method
QAF	Quality Assurance Framework
RCG	Regional Coordination Group
RDBES	Regional Database & Estimation System
RWP	Regional Work Plan
SAF	Scientific Advice on Fisheries
SG	Sub Group
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
TM	Technical Meeting
VUR	Vessel Utilization Ratio





Executive summary

The Regional Coordination Group on Economic Issues (RCG ECON) was established in 2021 as an expert group to assist the Commission in implementing the Data Collection Framework (DCF), which concerns the collection, management, and use of data in the fisheries sector, as well as providing support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. This was the fourth annual RCG ECON meeting organised.

The RCG ECON 2025 meeting was held from 12th to 15th of May in Vigo with the option to join online through the Teams virtual meeting platform. A total of 71 experts (Annex I) representing 23 Member States (MSs), Joint Research Centre, DG MARE and ICES. Of those, 32 attended the meeting in person in Vigo, and an additional 39 joined via the Teams platform.

The meeting agenda included the reporting of the ISSGs that took place during the previous year: Exploring Options for Data Collection for New Social Variables and ISSG Methodological Issues. The discussion started in the ISSG on new social variables continued during the ISSG methodological issues where it was held under a specific ToR. The meeting on methodological issues covered a wide range of ToRs crucial for the RCG ECON group. Under the ToR valuation of capital, the main conclusions and recommendations that took place in the ISSG Methodological issues were presented. Specifically, given the lack of a standardised method in the EU for valuing intangible assets, it is recommended where possible to collect and compare data from multiple sources regularly. Combining market price methods with the discounted cash flow method (DCFM) analysis can improve accuracy. Hedonic regression using second-hand vessel prices offers additional insights, particularly for non-tradeable rights, by isolating the value of embedded licenses and/or quotas. It is also suggested to further investigate the use of the average economic results for the last five years when calculating the prices using the DCFM, to take into account variation in gross profit.

Under ToR related to the energy transition of fisheries and aquaculture, the detailed discussion that took place in the ISSG Methodological issues meeting was presented. The main objective was to recommend ways to monitor this transition through the existing Data Collection Framework (DCF). RCG ECON recommended that the end users (EC and STECF) are to provide feedback on i) whether the suggested activities to cover the end users' data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture align with their needs to monitor energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture and ii) if additional actions are needed to increase knowledge on energy consumption, and the link with energy consumption and emissions. This should be done before MSs take action. Moreover, MSs will start gathering data on fuel use in fisheries of various fuel types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport from 2026. As the vessel's fuel, consumed during steaming and fishing activities, is by far the most critical energy source in fisheries, the vessels' fuel consumption is used as a proxy for energy consumption. As some MSs need time to alter their data collection plans, this additional data collection is voluntary. For the sake of completeness, it has to be stated that Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 itself excludes "fish-catching or fish-processing ships" from the obligation to collect data but is used here as a reference for the specification of fuel types.

Regarding aquaculture under the same ToR on energy transition, and on the condition that feedback is provided from the EC, the MSs will start gathering data on the use of energy of various energy types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels from data collection year 2026. Due to the complexity of the issues, MSs may implement this through adding a question to their standard questionnaire asking the operators to what extent they use renewable energy sources in their companies. As some MSs need time to alter their data collection plans, this additional data collection is voluntary.





Under the discussion on the ToR for Days at Sea (DaS) and maximum sea days, level of activity and vessel utilization ratio (VUR), RCG ECON recommended that the MSs should consider the use of geolocation data for calculating DaS when these data are available. Cross-validation of data sources, especially between logbooks, sales notes, and geolocation data, should be promoted to ensure consistency, and enhance accuracy and reliability of DaS. This recommendation assumes that the 24-hours period for DaS calculations is applied according to the EU DCF methodology.

Concerning calculations of DaS for small scale vessels, the RCG ECON group recommended for relevant MSs to assess the completeness of declared data (e.g. logbooks), gaps or biases should be identified and reported in the national work programs. Furthermore, the assumptions used in DaS calculations when using data available “day by day” (and not “fishing trip by fishing trip”, e.g. coastal logbooks) should be assessed especially when only sales note data are considered. The assumptions should be evaluated against the EU-agreed definitions, and findings should be documented in the national data collection programs. The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair proposed to have an in-depth ISSG workshop to review and revise best practices guidelines from previous workshops.

The RCG ECON group recommends to explore what the consequences are of using the 90th percentile (90P) method for calculation of maximum sea days for fleet segments. This method offers a better balance between capturing the typical behaviour of the fleet and minimizing the impact of outliers when the size of the segment is small. The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair recommend that MSs explore the implementation the 90th percentile (90P) method to calculate the maximum number of sea days across all fleet segments, in alignment with ISSG methodological recommendations. To ensure robust and transparent results, MSs are strongly encouraged to perform statistical analyses based on individual vessel-level data to enable a more accurate and representative assessment.

The RCG ECON group recommends that the current definition and interpretation of the VUR is reassessed and tailored specifically for small-scale fleets by the STECF, as the group acknowledges that the current definition and interpretation does not work well for the small-scale fleet. Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities should be amended. The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair proposes that the STECF Expert Working Groups on Annual Economic Report (AER), Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI) and Balance Capacity of the fleet assess the impact of the Maximum Days at Sea calculations in relation to fleet activity levels and Vessel Utilisation Ratio (VUR) calculations.

Regarding the ToR on data collection on social aspects, the RCG ECON group recommends that the new social indicator “Financial Position” should be renamed to avoid overlap with an existing AER economic indicator. Next year’s STECF EWG dedicated to social analysis should rename the social indicator and notify the RCG ECON when the new name is decided. The RCG ECON will notify MSs so that they can update their National WP, accordingly, if needed. Furthermore, the RCG ECON group recommends that MSs which have included a test study on collection of new social data in their WP to provide results of their year-long test study or first year work at a dedicated RCG ECON ISSG workshop on social aspects. RCG ECON and ISSG chair decided to organize an ISSG workshop specifically where MS with case studies to collect social data share and discuss their experiences, data sources and data collection methodologies. Finally, the RCG ECON group recommends that the ToR for the STECF EWG on Social Data should include analyses of Aquaculture and Fish Processing social data.





Concerning the Regional Work Plan (RWP) for socio-economic data, it is recommended that the RCG ECON group continues to discuss if new optional variables and their definitions can be added to the RWP to improve national data collection and analyses.

MARE provided updates on upcoming RCG meetings, including the new social data call for 2025, and outlined the timeline for the next regional work plans (2028–2030). Feedback on the 2025–2027 plan highlighted inconsistent national commitment to agreed initiatives, with RCG ECON invited to consider including additional common content in the next cycle. Updates were also given on the DCF IT platform, the 2024 annual report timeline, and efforts to resolve DTMT data transmission backlogs. MARE presented the results of the EU survey on data confidentiality, noting both legal and non-legal restrictions, and emphasised the need to balance GDPR compliance with data-sharing obligations. The ISSG on data confidentiality will prepare common guidance, with RCG ECON asking to contribute input on clustering versus withholding.

JRC presented feedback from STECF meetings on recent fisheries economics and aquaculture data calls, including the annual economic reports. The focus was on the fleet economic data call and the use of voluntary variables (e.g. geo indicator, gear, fishing, activity level, maximum sea days), stressing their consistent and timely application. JRC raised two points: whether VUR should become mandatory if essential to balance exercise, and whether RCG ECON should recommend methods for estimating it. Updates were also given on enhanced analytical dashboards, improved data submission and quality, and proposed structural changes to EWG meetings—introducing a 2–3 day online preparatory phase before a focused 3-day in-person session to strengthen analysis at the EU level. Finally, JRC outlined planning for upcoming data calls in the processing industry and social data domains.

Under the ToR collaboration between RCG ECON and ICES Working Group on Economics (WGECON), a presentation was given highlighting the tasks of WGECON which include mapping current work and identifying future needs, looking into links with international organizations, reporting on information needed for trade-off analysis of fishing impacts and ecosystem services and assessing the economic significance of fishing. The WGECON group is using DCF economic data for ecosystem overviews and aiming to improve the use of economic data at ICES, incorporating it into the advice products. The group is open for new members and is keen on collaborating with RCG ECON in the following fields: Development of methods and procedures for partitioning economic data to a resolution better suited for ICES work, collaboration on data needs and requirements for potential future ICES data calls and a wider share of expertise and practices applied outside the EU.

The RDBFIS II and RDBFIS III projects were presented, the developed database provides an option for regional data storage and extended data validation and checking in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. RCG ECON was updated on the latest developments. The tool appears to offer promising applications for data collection in the years to come.

The role of CETMAR as service provider for the RCGs Secretariat presented the project SECWEB 2.0. implemented from June 2024 to May 2026. The overall goal of SecWeb2.0 is to further facilitate and increase the efficiency of the interactions of all the members and stakeholders of the Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) by improving the online working environment, tools, and services offered by the RCGs Secretariat. After the initial set-up of the project, most of the efforts in the final part of 2024 and the first half of 2025 were devoted to the consultation of preferences and needs and to the accomplishment of the co-design activities with the RCGs. Through questionnaires, interviews, and participatory workshops, SecWeb2.0





identified the necessary tools and improvements, defined their core functional specifications, and prioritised the corresponding IT development tasks to ensure efficient, user-centred outcomes.

RCG ECON also discussed next year's technical meeting and ISSG specific meetings in order to facilitate the exchange of expertise on social and methodological issues. Specifically, in Spring 2026, an ISSG on social aspects will take place virtually and the annual technical meeting in May 2026 is planned for Sofia, Bulgaria.





I. Administrative details

Regional Coordination	Regional Coordination Group on Economic Issues
Year of Appointment with the current cycle	2025
Reporting year within the current cycle (1, 2 or 3)	I (2024-2025)
Chair(s)	Irene Tzouramani (GRC) and Adelbert De Clercq (BEL)

Meeting venue	Meeting dates
Vigo, Spain	12-15 May 2025





2. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the meeting were drafted in advance of the meeting by the chairs with consultation from DG MARE and session moderators.

1. Stakeholder feedback presentation by the Commission
2. Feedback from the STECF EWGs
3. RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries
4. RCG Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation - update on progress
5. Pan regional ISSG - RWP – Feedback
6. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues
7. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Valuation of Capital
8. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture
9. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Low active and active vessels
10. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Data collection of social aspects
 - a. Feedback EWG Social
 - b. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Data collection of social aspects
11. RCG ECON and ICES WGECON collaboration

The detailed agenda is reported in Annex II.



3. List of Recommendations

Recommendation 01. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues - Regional Work Plan (RWP) questionnaire	
ECON_2025_R01	Concerning the RWP for socio-economic data, it is recommended that the RCG ECON group continues to discuss if new optional variables and their definitions can be added to the RWP to improve national data collection and analyses. This ToR can become a fixed ToR to be discussed yearly at the technical meeting.
TOR 5	Feedback from pan-regional ISSG on the Regional Work Plan (RWP)
Justification	In the future WP cycle of 2028-2030, a Regional Work Plan (RWP) will need to be included for each section of the DCF WP. As the timing of meetings where variables are discussed and analysed in-depth differs from meetings where decisions are made, work on updating the RWP in the coming WP cycles needs to happen in advance. As variables, especially the voluntary variables outside the EU-MAP, may change, and the definitions of variables may change over time, a discussion on updating voluntary variables and their definitions needs to be ongoing.
Follow-up actions needed	RCG ECON Chairs with ISSG Chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	Yearly
Comments	Agreed

Recommendation 02. Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues - Valuation of Capital	
ECON_2025_R02	<p>Given the lack of a standardised method in the EU for valuing intangible assets, it is recommended where possible to collect and compare data from multiple sources regularly. Combining market price methods with the discounted cash flow method (DCF) analysis can improve accuracy. Hedonic regression using second-hand vessel prices offers additional insights, particularly for non-tradable rights, by isolating the value of embedded licenses and/or quotas.</p> <p>It is also suggested to further investigate the use of the average economic results for the last 5 years when calculating the prices using the DCFM, to take into account variation in gross profit.</p>
TOR 7	Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Valuation of Capital Framework

Recommendation 02. Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues - Valuation of Capital	
Justification	Capital valuation was discussed during the ISSG meeting on methodological issues in May 2025, under ToR 1, in Kavala. The RCG ECON group mentioned the following points during the discussions. Considering the absence of a standardised valuation within the EU, more information needs to be collected to evaluate intangible assets, particularly for rights with no identified features. Moreover, potentially complementary approaches could be applied to assess intangible capital, Market Price Method (when fishing rights are transferable and have an active market/price available), Discounted Cash Flow Method (when fishing rights are transferable, but price are not available and they are not coupled to the tangible assets) or Hedonic Pricing Method (when fishing rights are not transferable, hence price are not available and they are coupled to the tangible assets).
Follow-up actions needed	MS to continue testing the methodologies suggested by guidelines for estimating fishing rights and to regularly collect and compare data from multiple sources. RCG ECON chairs and ISSG on Valuation of Capital will organise a meeting to compare MS experiences and try to further harmonise methodologies and assumptions behind them. In addition, investigating the use of the economic results of the vessels which are making the most considerable marginal profit to estimate quota or license price levels is needed.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG ECON and ISSG chairs on Valuation of Capital
Time frame (Deadline)	2026
Comments	Agreed

Recommendation 03. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture

ECON_2025_R03	<p>The end users (EC and STECF) are to provide feedback on</p> <p>Whether the suggested activities to cover the end users' data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture align with their needs to monitor energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p>If additional actions are needed to increase knowledge on energy consumption and the link with energy consumption and emissions, this should be done before MSs take action.</p>
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Recommendation 03. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture

TOR 8	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture
Justification	<p>To follow recommendation 2, as decided in the RCG ECON 2024, a specific session on methodological issues under ToR 2 was organised during the ISSG meeting in May 2025, in Kavala, Greece. The objective was to recommend ways to monitor this transition through the existing DCF.</p> <p>At first, a comparison of the national work plan methods was organised. Presentations of data collection on fuel/energy use from specific MS (Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium) were followed by a discussion on the distinction of energy transition between fleet and aquaculture.</p> <p>The analysis of national work plans showed a broad diversity in how data on fuel and energy use are collected across EU MSs. For the fisheries sector, fuel consumption and costs are relatively well covered in most countries, especially when compared to aquaculture. This is often done through direct measurements in some MSs (e.g. blue diesel registries, tax refund records), detailed questionnaires, or administrative data sources. However, the methods differ substantially, and data on fuel types (e.g., diesel, LNG, biofuels) are currently rarely collected, even though this information becomes increasingly relevant in light of energy transition policies.</p> <p>Adding fuel type fields to questionnaires is feasible and already implemented in some cases (e.g., RCG ECON report 2025 for fuel use). For countries without such instruments, a dedicated supplementary questionnaire could be introduced. Where financial accounts are the only source, this information is not accessible without additional data collection.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	EC, STECF
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	EC, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2026
Comments	Agreed

Recommendation 04. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture	
ECON_2025_R04	<p>MS will start gathering data on fuel use in fisheries of various fuel types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport from 2026. A vessel's fuel consumption is by far the most critical energy source in fisheries as it is used as a proxy for energy consumption.</p> <p>As some MS need time to alter their data collection plans, this additional data collection is voluntary.</p>
TOR 8	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture
Justification	<p>To follow recommendation 2, as decided in the RCG ECON 2024, a specific session on methodological issues under ToR 2 was organised during the ISSG meeting in May 2025, in Kavala, Greece. The objective was to recommend ways to monitor this transition through the existing DCF.</p> <p>At first, a comparison of the National work plan methods was organised. Presentations of data collection on fuel/energy use from specific MS (Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium), followed by a discussion on the distinction of energy transition between fleet and aquaculture.</p> <p>The analysis of national work plans showed a broad diversity in how data on fuel and energy use are collected across EU MSs. For the fisheries sector, fuel consumption and costs are relatively well covered in most countries, especially when compared to aquaculture. This is often done through direct measurements in some MSs (e.g. blue diesel registries, tax refund records), detailed questionnaires, or administrative data sources. However, the methods differ substantially, and data on fuel types (e.g., diesel, LNG, biofuels) are currently rarely collected, even though this information becomes increasingly relevant in light of energy transition policies.</p> <p>Adding fuel type fields to questionnaires is feasible and already implemented in some cases (e.g., RCG ECON report 2025 for fuel use). For countries without such instruments, a dedicated supplementary questionnaire could be introduced. Where financial accounts are the only source, this information is not accessible without additional data collection.</p> <p>Possible ways to collect the information may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For MS that use questionnaires, the extra information on the fuel type can be included in the questionnaire. • For other MSs that do not use questionnaires or detailed accounts, additional data collection from fishermen will be needed.

Recommendation 04. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection from major fuel providers in fisheries harbours could be used as a fallback option.
Follow-up actions needed	RCG ECON recommends that MSs investigate the potential actions needed to collect the additional information on energy data for fisheries and include this data collection in their National Plan, as from 2026
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	2026
Comments	Agreed: This recommendation is conditional on the agreement of the end users that this data collection will fulfil their needs on monitoring the energy transition of fisheries and aquaculture.

Recommendation 05. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture	
ECON_2025_R05	<p>On the condition that feedback is provided from the EC, the MS will start gathering data on the use of energy in aquaculture of various energy types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels from data collection year 2026. Due to the complexity of the issues, MSs may implement this through adding a question into their standard questionnaire asking the operators to what extent they use renewable energy sources in their companies.</p> <p>As some MS need time to alter their data collection plans, this additional data collection is voluntary.</p>
TOR 8	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture

Recommendation 05. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture

<p>Justification</p>	<p>To follow recommendation 2, as decided in the RCG ECON 2024, a specific session on methodological issues under ToR 2 was organised during the ISSG meeting in May 2025, in Kavala, Greece. The objective was to recommend ways to monitor this transition through the existing DCF.</p> <p>At first, a comparison of the national work plan methods was organised. Presentations of data collection on fuel/energy use from specific MS (Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium), followed by a discussion on the distinction of energy transition between fleet and aquaculture.</p> <p>The analysis of national work plans showed a broad diversity in how data on fuel and energy use are collected across EU MSs. For the fisheries sector, fuel consumption and costs are relatively well covered in most countries, especially when compared to aquaculture. This is often done through direct measurements in some MSs (e.g. blue diesel registries, tax refund records), detailed questionnaires, or administrative data sources. However, the methods differ substantially, and data on fuel types (e.g., diesel, LNG, biofuels) are currently rarely collected, even though this information becomes increasingly relevant in light of energy transition policies.</p> <p>Adding fuel type fields to questionnaires is feasible and already implemented in some cases (e.g., RCG ECON report 2025 for fuel use). For countries without such instruments, a dedicated supplementary questionnaire could be introduced. Where financial accounts are the only source, this information is not accessible without additional data collection.</p>
<p>Follow-up actions needed</p>	<p>RCG ECON recommends that MSs investigate the potential actions needed to collect additional information on the fisheries and aquaculture sector.</p>
<p>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</p>	<p>MS</p>
<p>Time frame (Deadline)</p>	<p>2026</p>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Agreed: This recommendation is conditional on the agreement of the end users that this data collection will fulfil their needs on monitoring the energy transition of fisheries and aquaculture.</p>

Recommendation 06. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels	
ECON_2025_R06	The MS should consider the use of geolocation data for calculating DaS when this data is available. Cross-validation of data sources, especially between logbooks, sales notes, and geolocation data, should be promoted to ensure consistency, and enhance accuracy and reliability of DaS. This recommendation assumes that the 24-hours period for DaS calculations is applied according to the EU DCF methodology.
TOR 9	Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels
Justification	The variable DaS per fleet segment is a key cross-cutting indicator that plays a crucial role in understanding not only landings and economic performance but also social and human dimensions, including crew well-being. MSs use different data sources to calculate DaS such as logbooks, sales notes and/or geolocation. Similarly, MS calculate DaS differently, for example based on the fishing trip in combination with the 24-hours period definition or based on calendar days. Furthermore, some countries considered geolocation to enhance data quality. As such there is heterogeneity in the use and processing of data on DaS between MS.
Follow-up actions needed	The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair proposes to have an in-depth ISSG workshop to review and revise best practices guidelines from previous workshops (e.g. RCG ISSG SSF and Metier & Transversal variables) to calculate "Total Days at Sea" especially in the context of the development of geolocation data (with the new EU Control Regulation) and the promotion of cross-validation methods to improve data quality and completeness especially for SSF.
Time Frame (Deadline)	2026
Comments	Agreed

Recommendation 07. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels	
ECON_2025_R07	Concerning calculations of DaS for small scale vessels, the RCG ECON group recommends for relevant MS to assess the completeness of declared data (e.g. logbooks), gaps or biases should be identified and reported in the national work programs. Furthermore, the assumptions used in DaS calculations when using data available “day by day” (and not “fishing trip by fishing trip”, e.g. coastal logbooks) should be assessed especially when only sales note data are considered. The assumptions should be evaluated against the EU-agreed definitions, and findings should be documented in the national data collection programs.
TOR 9	Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels
Justification	The variable DaS per fleet segment is a key cross-cutting indicator that plays a crucial role in understanding not only landings and economic performance but also social and human dimensions, including crew well-being. MSs use different data sources to calculate DaS for vessels < 10 metres due to a high diversity in data sources such as (coastal) logbooks, sales notes and specific sampling schemes. As a consequence of the data source heterogeneity and data gaps, there is heterogeneity in the use and processing of data on DaS between MS.
Follow-up actions needed	The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair proposes to have an in-depth ISSG workshop to review and revise best practices guidelines from previous workshops (e.g. RCG ISSG SSF and Metier and Transversal variables) to calculate "Total DaS" especially in the context of the development of geolocation data (with the new EU Control Regulation) and the promotion of cross-validation methods to improve data quality and completeness especially for SSF.
Time Frame (Deadline)	2026
Comments	Agreed

Recommendation 08. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels	
ECON_2025_R08	The RCG ECON group recommends to explore what the consequences are of using the 90 th percentile (90P) method for calculation of maximum sea days for fleet segments. This method offers a better balance between capturing the typical behaviour of the fleet and minimizing the impact of outliers when the size of the segment is small.

Recommendation 08. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels
TOR 9

Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels

Justification

Although the variable “Maximum Sea Days” is not an EU-MAP required variable, it cannot longer be considered as an optional provided variable. There is a high level of variability of how maximum sea days a is calculated in the MS. Importantly, the estimation of maximum sea days can be significantly impacted by outliers and extreme values, particularly when using methods like average top 10 or maximum. These methods are sensitive to anomalous data points, which can lead to misleading results. A single vessel with an unusually high number of DaS can disproportionately affect the results. For segments with 10 vessels or fewer, the top 10 average is inadequate. In such cases, the top 10 average is essentially the average of the entire segment, resulting in a VUR of 1, which does not provide meaningful insights. Maximum sea days and VUR are mainly used in the context of the STECF Balance Capacity EWG based on the data from the fleet economic data call processed by the JRC.

Follow-up actions needed

The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair recommend that MSs explore the implementation the 90th percentile (90P) method to calculate the maximum number of sea days across all fleet segments, in alignment with ISSG methodological recommendations. To ensure robust and transparent results, MSs are strongly encouraged to perform statistical analyses based on individual vessel-level data, enabling a more accurate and representative assessment. The following guidelines for calculating the 90th percentile (90P) should be applied with:

x_n as the days at sea per vessel (1, ..., n)

Let's consider a sorted dataset of n values:

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots \leq x_n$$

The p^{th} percentile (where $p \in [0, 100]$) is defined by:

$$P_p = x_k + d \cdot (x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

where:

- $i = \frac{p}{100} \cdot (n - 1)$
- $k = [i]$ (the integer part of i)
- $d = i - k$ (the decimal part of i)

Thus:

$$P_p = x_{[i]} + (i - [i]) \cdot (x_{[i]+1} - x_{[i]})$$



Recommendation 08. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels

Application to the 90th Percentile:

For a sorted dataset x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , compute:

$$i = 0.9 \cdot (n - 1)$$

Then apply the formula above to interpolate between the values at indices $[i]$ and $[i] + 1$.

Example with $n = 30$ values

2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Steps to calculate the 90th percentile (P_{90}):

1. Calculate the position i :

$$i = 0.9 \cdot (n - 1) = 0.9 \cdot 29 = 26.1$$

2. Integer part: $[i] = 26$

3. Decimal part: $d = 0.1$

4. Values used:

- $x_{27} = 19$
- $x_{28} = 20$

5. Interpolation:

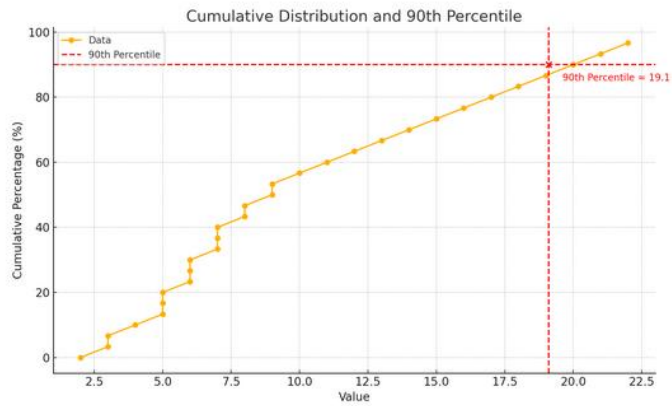
$$P_{90} = x_{27} + 0.1 \cdot (x_{28} - x_{27}) = 19 + 0.1 \cdot (20 - 19) = 19 + 0.1 = 19.1$$

The **90th percentile** of this dataset is **19.1**.

This means that **90%** of the values are less than or equal to **19.1**, and only **10%** are greater.



Recommendation 08. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels



Here's the visual representation of the dataset and its **90th percentile** (≈ 19.1) on a cumulative distribution plot. The red dashed lines show the value and the cumulative percentage where the 90th percentile lies. L

Time Frame (Deadline)

TM 2026

Comments

Agreed

Recommendation 09. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels

ECON_2025_R09

The RCG ECON group recommends that the current definition and interpretation of the VUR is reassessed and tailored specifically for small-scale fleets by the STECF, as the group acknowledges that these current definition and interpretation does not work well for the small-scale fleet. Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities should be amended.

TOR 9

Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels

Recommendation 09. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Low active and active vessels

<p>Justification</p>	<p>For the 2022 data reference year, inconsistencies were identified in the AER database regarding the reporting of DaS. In some cases, values exceeded 365 days, while in others, the reported maximum sea days was unusually low (fewer than 50 days) for a significant number of fleet segments. Some of these anomalies can be attributed to sub-segmentation based on activity levels. These reporting issues undermine the reliability of the VUR indicator.</p> <p>To address these inconsistencies, it is essential to strengthen quality control measures and ensure more accurate and comprehensive reporting of both total DaS and maximum sea days, which were missing for several segments.</p> <p>Statistical analysis of VUR indicates that a large proportion of segments (73%) involving vessels under 12 meters fall below the 70% threshold, with variations observed across supra-regions. Although vessels under 12 meters are generally less active than those over 12 meters, they exhibit greater variability in their Days at Sea, contributing to lower VUR values. This variability should be taken into account when defining appropriate VUR thresholds for these segments, i.e. when determining whether a segment should be regarded as ‘in balance’ or not in the context of the STECF Balance Capacity EWG. Maximum days at sea and VUR are mainly used in the context of the STECF Balance Capacity EWG.</p>
<p>Follow-up actions needed</p>	<p>The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair proposes that the STECF Expert Working Groups on Annual Economic Report (AER), Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI) and Balance capacity of the fleet assess the impact of the Maximum Days at Sea calculations in relation to fleet activity levels and VUR calculations. The RCG ECON group recommends that the current definition and interpretation of the VUR is reassessed and tailored specifically for small-scale fleets by the STECF, as the group acknowledges that these current definition and interpretation does not work well for the small-scale fleet.</p>
<p>Time Frame (Deadline)</p>	<p>2026</p>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

Recommendation 10. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects

<p>ECON_2025_R10</p>	<p>The RCG ECON group recommends that the new social indicator “Financial Position” should be renamed to avoid overlap with an existing Annual Economic Report (AER) economic indicator.</p>
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Recommendation 10. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects	
TOR 10	Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects
Justification	The STECF EWG 25-02 on social variables clarified 12 new social data indicators among which is the social indicator for “Financial Position”. However, this is the name of an indicator that has been already in use for the AER where the financial situation of the European fleet is reported. Overlap in terminology of economic and social analyses may lead to confusion for data collectors, providers and end-users. Consequently, different terminology/names should be considered.
Follow-up actions needed	Next year’s STECF EWG dedicated to social analysis should rename the social indicator and notify the RCG ECON when the new name is decided. The RCG ECON will notify MS so that they can update their National Work Plan, accordingly, if needed.
Time Frame (Deadline)	TM 2026
Comments	Agreed

Recommendation 11. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects	
ECON_2025_R11	The RCG ECON group recommends that MSs that have included a pilot study on collection of new social data in their WP should provide results of their year-long pilot study or first year work at a dedicated RCG ECON ISSG workshop on social aspects.
TOR 10	Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects

Recommendation 11. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects

Justification	<p>In term of social data collection, seven MSs have included pilot studies in their national WPs; four MS aim to collect data for the full suite of the 12 new social indicators, while three MS have selected to focus on specific social variables. MSs have either indicated a pilot study of one year or the full WP-cycle of three years. In both cases, MSs will accumulate valuable experiences in social data collection. Data sources and methods of data collection should be shared and discussed to define and harmonise guidelines for data collection. Given the increasing end-user demand for comprehensive social data, enhanced effort in data collection is essential to organise, discuss, and review data sources, methodologies employed, context-specific considerations, and challenges faced. The workshop will facilitate the sharing of experiences and assist MSs in identifying, harmonising, and adopting best practices and guidelines for effective social data collection. Further, the workshop will review outcomes and potential new indicators from the upcoming STECF EWG 25-13, "Social Data in EU Fisheries 2: Analysis and Evaluation," as well as from a potential STECF EWG on Social Data anticipated in 2026, if it materialises prior to the ISSG workshop. This approach will facilitate feedback between the ISSG and STECF EWG, enhancing future data collection efforts.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<p>Organising an ISSG workshop specifically where MSs with case studies to collect social data share and discuss their experiences, data sources and data collection methodologies. Feedback should happen between the ISSG and the STECF EWG on social aspects.</p>
Time Frame (Deadline)	<p>Mid-2026</p>
Comments	<p>Agreed</p>

Recommendation 12. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects

ECON_2025_R12	<p>The RCG ECON group recommends that the ToR for the STECF EWG on Social Data include analyses of Aquaculture and Fish Processing social data.</p>
TOR 10	<p>Feedback from ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects</p>



Recommendation 12. Feedback from the ISSG Methodological Issues – Data collection of social aspects

Justification	The RCG ECON group recognises the critical importance of social sustainability within the seafood value chain. Although considerable progress has been made in a fisheries context, similar efforts in aquaculture and fish processing remain limited. Expanding enhanced social data analysis into these sectors will provide valuable social implications and support more comprehensive and knowledge-based policy-making. Initiating dedicated discussions will facilitate knowledge-sharing MSs, harmonise methodologies, identify challenges, and develop best practices tailored specifically to aquaculture and fish processing. Furthermore, it is essential to explore potential opportunities for integration or harmonisation of methodologies, definitions, and contextual frameworks across all three sectors (i.e., fisheries, aquaculture, and fish processing) to ensure consistency and comparability. Ultimately, enhancing the scope and depth of social analysis.
Follow-up actions needed	Including an additional ToR in the proposed RCG ECON ISSG social meeting regarding this recommendation.
Time Frame (Deadline)	2026
Comments	Agreed





4. List of Outcomes and Achievements of RCG ECON in this delivery period

During the third year of the RCG ECON implementation, the work under each ToR has been carried out. Two intersessional subgroups (ISSGs) were organised before RCG ECON and presented their main outcomes during the RCG ECON meeting. Then, recommendations were proposed based on feedback from the RCG group. All results of the discussions, decisions, recommendations, and tasks for the ISSGs were agreed during RCG ECON on a pan-regional level. The RCG ECON 2025 report is composed of one overview of the work done under each ToR (section 5), related recommendations (section 3) and Annexes.

The RCG ECON and ISSGs reports can be found under the following link: https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/index_en
The reports can also be found in the RCG ECON webpage: <https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/rcg-econ/>





5. Progress report on ToRs and work plan

5.1. ToR I. Stakeholder feedback presentation by the Commission

Objectives – Achievements

The presentation from DG MARE presented the Commission update on DCF-related work:

- Summarised upcoming RCG meetings and MARE data calls, highlighting the new social data call for 2025. MARE outlined the timeline leading to the next cycle of regional work plans of 2028-2030.
- Based on feedback from the 2025-2027 work plan evaluation, inconsistent national commitment to regionally agreed initiatives and test studies was highlighted. It was suggested RCG ECON might extend the next regional WP 2028-2030 with other commonly agreed content like test studies, even if not all MS would commit to implement them.
- Updated on the DCF IT platform, including the timeline for uploading 2024 annual reports.
- Briefed on the ongoing efforts to address the backlog of data transmission issues recorded in the DTMT.
- Summarised the outcome of the EU survey on data confidentiality completed by the national correspondents, with restrictions stemming from the legal basis like GDPR, Article 113 of the revised Control regulation and national laws. Secondary restrictions originate from data sharing agreements and practices and are not always rooted in a legal basis.
- Highlighted that guidance on data confidentiality in relation to GDPR has already been shared and emphasised the importance of liaising with national GDPR experts to balance safeguarding data with the obligation to share it. ISSG on data confidentiality committed to draft common guidance on behalf of all RCGs. To feed into the process, RCG ECON was asked for detailed input on clustering vs. withholding.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

N/A

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions

N/A

Rapporteur: Monika Sterczewska



5.2. ToR 2. Feedback from the STECF EWGs

Objectives

To streamline data collection and delivery to JRC for various data calls, JRC presented feedback from the last data calls on fisheries economics, aquaculture, and the STECF meetings regarding the Annual economic reports.

Achievements

The presentation documents the input and recommendations provided by the STECF EWGs concerning the 2025 AER data calls for the EU fisheries sector. The primary objective was to assess the quality and consistency of submitted economic and social data across various sectors, including aquaculture and processing industries. It also aimed to identify issues related to data submission timeliness, accuracy, and standardisation, and to propose procedural improvements to enhance data analysis and reporting efficiency.

In February, the data call for economic data for fishing fleets was launched. In this data call for AER 2025, some additional voluntary variables were included: Geo indicator, Gear, Fishing, and Activity level. They should be used only for the purpose for which they are designed and consistently, in a timely manner; otherwise, the field should be left blank.

The feedback highlighted the importance of voluntary variables such as “maximum sea days”. However, the variable is not part of the EU MAP; it is a crucial variable to calculate the VUR. The proposition from JRC is

- (i) If VUR is considered essential in balance exercise, should the variable be made mandatory.
- (ii) RCG ECON should provide a recommendation on estimating it.

26

- **Enhanced Use of Analytical Dashboards:** The implementation of Qlik dashboards significantly improved the ability to conduct standard checks, detect data issues, and visually display national and regional data, facilitating more informed analysis and decision-making.
- **Data Submission and Quality Insights:** The EWGs identified frequent data submission delays, resubmissions, and discrepancies in definitions, especially concerning social indicators, thereby spotlighting areas in need of harmonization and timely coordination among MSs.
- **Proposed Structural Improvements for EWG Meetings:** Recommendations were made to restructure meetings into a 2-3 day online preparatory phase, followed by a focused 3-day in-person session, which would improve the depth and efficiency of analysis, particularly at the EU level.
- **Comprehensive Planning for Upcoming Data Calls:** Detailed timelines were established for future data submissions in the processing industry and social data domains, supporting more precise planning and coordination among stakeholders.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

Rapporteur: Jarno Virtanen and Irene Tzouramani

5.3. ToR 3. RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries

The objective of this ToR is to get informed about and discuss the developments in the RDBFIS II project.

Achievements

Stefanos Kavadas (Scientific Information Technology coordinator) and Irida Maina (specific Contract Project coordinator) presented the progress work of the RDBFIS II project and the RDBFIS III, the establishment of the Regional Database for the Mediterranean and Black Sea. They described the integrated module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. The data structures in the system incorporate information from various data calls (Med&BS, FDI, AER, GFCM/DCRF), experimental samplings (MEDITS & MEDIAS), detailed biological sampling, Eggs and Larvae, PETS, stomach contents, recreational fisheries, and alien species. Several tools are integrated into RDBFIS for data visualization, data quality checks and processing. A dynamic tool has been developed to illustrate the evolution of fleet dynamics in Europe, with potential links to landings, discards, and value (FDI Table A).

Med&BS RDBFIS III project aims to continue hosting, maintaining, fine-tuning, and further developing RDBFIS, finalising the population of RDBFIS with data, and agreeing with the relevant actors on an all-encompassing data call for the future. Moreover, it will work towards utilising RDBFIS for submission to the main data calls and reporting obligations and will provide support to RDBFIS users. It will also ensure mitigation to the permanent host once the decision is made.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

N/A

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions

N/A

Rapporteur: *Stefanos Kavadas, Irida Maina and Irene Tzouramani*

5.4. ToR 4. RCG Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation - update on progress

Objectives

CETMAR, in its role as service provider for the RCGs Secretariat, submitted a project proposal under CINEA call EMFAF-2023-PIA-FISHERIES SCIENTIFIC ADVICE. The proposal was granted with reference contract No. 101156582 and the acronym SECWEB 2.0. to be implemented from June 2024 to May 2026.

The overall goal of SecWeb2.0 is to further facilitate and increase the efficiency of the interactions of all the members and stakeholders of the Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) by improving the online working environment, tools, and services offered by the RCGs Secretariat.

More specifically, the project objectives are to:

- Address the evolving needs and requests of the RCGs network by expanding the functions and services delivered through the web.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the RCGs Stakeholders Database.
- Develop a new web-based tool enabling regular interactions processes.

This project is inextricably embedded into the intersessional work of the RCGs Secretariat because it bases on the RCG network needs and strongly relies on the interaction with the network participants.

Achievements

After the initial set-up of the project (i.e. setting up the team, establishing its management rules and procedures, ensuring that all the work would not clash but support the activity of the RCG secretariat, and also disseminating the project within the RCGs) most of the efforts in the final term of 2024 and the first half of 2025 were devoted to the consultation of preferences and needs and to the accomplishment of the codesign activities with the RCGs.

Through questionnaires, interviews, and participatory workshops, SecWeb2.0 identified the necessary tools and improvements, defined their core functional specifications, and prioritized the corresponding IT development tasks to ensure efficient, user-centred outcomes.

As of the RCG ECON meeting in May 2025, the process is still ongoing and has engaged over 70 direct contributors from the RCG network. The proposed solutions, prioritised accordingly, are presented below:

Decisions and recommendations support tool	E-library
Event registration system	Consultation tool
E-calendar	Stakeholders database
	Website updates and improvements

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

It is foreseen that by the end of September 2025, the first pilot versions of the developments will be presented for discussion, amendment and validation. Programming work will continue until every solution is ready for crash testing.

It is expected that by the end of May 2026, all the solutions will become fully operational.



Q&A and Comments

Participants in RCG ECON TM2025 expressed interest in exploring the use of AI for tools like the e-Library, particularly for retrieving specific content from recorded documents and automatically updating extracted information as new reference materials are added.

The Secretariat welcomed the suggestion and agreed to explore its feasibility, including the potential for a pilot test. This idea will be incorporated into the technical specifications for the e-Library.

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions

N/A

Rapporteur: RCGs Secretariat / Rosa M. Fernández Otero





5.5. ToR 5. Pan regional ISSG RWP – Feedback

Objectives

As per the DCF regulation, a Regional Work Plan (RWP) for all aspects of the DCF has to be completed for the next work plan cycle 2028-2030. In WP cycles, useful RWP plans were compiled, and their intended work was successfully completed leading to improved data collection and analyses of biological data. However, for the socio-economic data collection no RWP have been suggested. Therefore, the Pan regional ISSG RWP included a term of reference (ToR) to collect information on potential updates of the RWP for the 2028-2030 work plan cycle from all aspects of the DCF related work, including socio-economic data collection.

Achievements

A questionnaire in Excel format was sent to all ISSG chairs and to the ToR chairs of the ISSG on Methodological Issues. Feedback was collected by one of the RCG ECON chairs and collated in a presentation that was discussed during the ISSG on Methodological Issues, which took place the 28th to the 30th of May 2025 in Kavala, Greece.

Feedback was given on a number of questions. The questions and summarised answers are briefly given below.

What are the challenges for the ISSG?

- Harmonisation across methodological approaches among the MSs.
- Harmonisation of methodologies for every sector the DCF is collecting data.
- Context dependent methods are however still necessary.

New areas for ISSG work to identify?

- Feedback from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) Expert Working Groups (EWG) is necessary
- Improved segmentation of the fleets rather on a regional level may present a new area
- Improving transparency of data quality and harmonisation of data quality
- Harmonising the approaches of data quality reporting between DCF related work and other European data authorities

What does your ISSG want to achieve in your work by the end of 2030?

- Identifying and resolving repetitive issues to be resolved by 2030
- Improved harmonisation of methods
- Exploring possible regional approaches for economic analyses
- Transparent metadata reporting and identifying data quality indicators

Where can we benefit from regional cooperation?

- It was unclear under what form regional cooperation is exactly expected
- Harmonisation of methods of data collection and the identification and sharing of best practices would benefit of regional cooperation

Do the areas currently identified need to stay?



- Current topics and working areas are still relevant and need to stay.

Other RWP topics you can think of?

- For the fish processing sector, investigating the origin of raw materials related to environmental and social sustainability.
- Easy access of all the online data and reports that the RCGs and ISSGs have generated.
- Easy access to 'history' files may improve the occurrence of repetitive topics and issues.
- Improving response rates and more streamlined sharing of information between MS.

Any other 'cool stuff' to be included in the ISSG work towards to future?

- A framework with time and space for deeper analyses of data issues, harnessing machine learning for data analyses, integrating the economic analyses on a larger European scale and engaging RCG ECON members to work towards improved data quality and reporting of data and data quality are other topics that could provide much regional work in the future.

Discussion

Not much discussion was invoked by the feedback of the results on the RCG ECON technical meeting. The most important discussion point focussed on the fact that it remained unclear what the RWP entails specifically for the experts contributing to socio-economic data collection and under which framework the regional work or cooperation has to happen. Is the work that the RCG ECON and by extension the ISSGs do not regional work? And thus one can pose the questions to include the ISSG work in the RWP or is it possible to suggest specific projects under the RWP and having MS who are interested to contribute subscribing to the topics in the RWP? Other questions that were asked were what has to come into a RWP, does the RCG ECON group want several RWPs or pan-regional RWPs (the latter seemed to be preferred during the discussion).

Proposal to the Pan regional ISSG–RWP

Following the feedback and discussion of ToR5 on the RWP, the ISSG would like to make the recommendation to ask feedback to the Chairs of the Pan regional ISSG RWP to clarify the following points:

- Definition of the RWP?
- What is involved in making the RWP?
- Is RCG-based ISSG work not exactly already what an RWP aims to do?
- Is it possible to keep Pan regional RWPs?
- Do all MS need to subscribe to the RWPs in relation to case study work?
- Does information already in the national WP have to be moved to the RWP or can it stay in the NWP?
- Is updating only the definitions of our collected variables enough?
- Secondly, the ISSG group would like to recommend to ask for feedback again to the EC on the details of the RWP if feedback from the Pan regional ISSG RWP cannot clarify the above points.
- Do we want to have RWP specific topics with case studies?

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

N/A



Recommendation:

ECON_2025_R01: Concerning the RWP for socio-economic data, it is recommended that the RCG ECON group continues to discuss if new optional variables and their definitions can be added to the RWP to improve national data collection and analyses. This ToR can become a fixed ToR to be discussed yearly at the technical meeting.

Rapporteur: Adelbert De Clercq





5.6. ToR 6 Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues

Objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to advance the coordination and methodological consistency of the EU Fisheries DCF by addressing five key areas of focus. These include the valuation of capital and associated data challenges, the energy transition in both fisheries and aquaculture sectors, approaches to defining and analysing low-active and active vessels, the enhancement of social data collection efforts, and the presentation of insights derived from the ISSG chairs questionnaire. Through presentations by MSs, discussions, and synthesis of conclusions, the meeting aims to provide actionable recommendations to be submitted to RCG ECON.

The goals of the ISSG included:

- Harmonising methodologies for valuing physical and intangible capital.
- Advancing data collection related to the energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Clarifying issues around low-active and active vessel classification.
- Improving the collection and comparability of social data.
- Reviewing outcomes from the ISSG Chairs questionnaire.

Key Points Discussed

Each session included presentations, discussions, and synthesis of conclusions to be submitted to RCG ECON as concrete suggestions for future actions. Therefore, the meeting's ToRs were:

ToR1: Valuation of capital (Monica Gambino & Loretta Malvarosa)

- MSs presented their case (e.g. Netherlands, Greece, France and Italy).
- Comparison of results from MS presentations.
- Draw conclusions regarding advancements made to tackle these issues.
- Discussion about physical capital.
- Discussion about intangible assets.
- Evaluation of problems and challenges with data collection.
- Synthesis of text with conclusions and suggestions to be presented to RCG ECON.

ToR2: Energy transition of fisheries and aquaculture (Hans van Oostenbrugge)

- MSs presented their case (e.g. Belgium).
- Comparison of National Work Plan methods.
- Discussion (or presentation) on the distinction of energy transition between fleet and aquaculture.
- Discussion on suggestions to improve data collection based on each sector's characteristics (collection of information by gear or metier, parallel activities in aquaculture companies).
- Discussion about the level of detail in data collection regarding vessel level and connection with FDI call, which is based on gears.
- Synthesis of text with conclusions and suggestions.

ToR3: Low active and active vessels (Olivier Guyader)





- MSs presented their case including methodology and threshold (France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands) and perspectives.
- Discussion of issues regarding: the vessel utilisation ratio used in the capacity report, clarification and calculation of the vessel utilisation ratio indicator, the importance of the indicator for small scale fleet, threshold of the indicator regarding small scale fleet.
- Discuss the issue of the low value of the small-scale fleet VUR indicator.
- Synthesis of text with conclusions and suggestions to be presented to RCG ECON.

ToR4: ISSGs and Future RWP (Adelbert De Clercq)

- Results from ISSG questionnaire on the future RWP.

ToR5: Data collection on social aspects (Angelos Liontakis)

- Presentation of the new list of social parameters to be collected.
- Discussion on MSs awareness of the new social list and of last September's meeting conclusions.
- Discussion between MSs regarding the current implementation of the new list, ongoing pilot studies, which parameters are collected.
- Discussion on what is in design towards national and community profiles regarding social data.
- Discuss the need for ongoing and future pilot studies coordination, in order to:
 - Build common methodological methods.
 - Compare data consistently and have a minimum data collection among MSs before the next social data call.
- Synthesis of text with conclusions and suggestions to be presented to RCG ECON.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

Rapporteur: Christos Danatskos



5.7. ToR 7. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Valuation of Capital

Introduction

The purpose of TOR7 was to report the discussion held during the Kavala ISSG on methodologies on the evaluation of the tangible and intangible capital in the EU fishing sector. The goal was to improve accuracy and comparability of capital estimates across MSs.

The work stems from prior recommendations (2019–2024) to update the Perpetual Inventory Method (PIM) assumptions and explore intangible capital valuation (e.g., fishing rights). The aim was to analyse national practices, identify data challenges, and suggest improvements. During the Kavala ISSG, MS experiences were reported on the application and improvements of capital estimation.

Key Points discussed

MS experience reported:

- Italy presented the application of the hedonic regression to estimate intangible value indirectly via second-hand vessel prices. Findings show physical attributes and license type influence prices; old vessels often sold for license transfer may distort tangible value estimates.
- Greece presented the revision of the PIM assumptions using market-based data from vessel listings and official depreciation rates. Results showed previous self-reported values were overestimated, with revised assumptions increasing capital stock and reducing depreciation costs significantly.
- Finland case highlighted data limitations and application of the DCFM for individual transferable quota (ITQ) valuation. Insurance and book values were used to estimate tangible assets. The presentation emphasized the need to define appropriate asset life spans and discount rates.
- France conducted a statistical modelling approach (LM, GLM, GAM) to estimate vessel construction prices and revised component lifespans. Findings suggest that construction prices rose faster than inflation, and actual asset life is longer than assumed.

Key Insights from the discussion

- Tangible Capital: PIM requires robust, regularly updated assumptions. Inputs like replacement cost, asset shares, and lifespan must be differentiated by fleet and gear type. Use of expert surveys, second-hand market analysis, and cross-country price indices is encouraged.
- When using various data sources for PCU estimation (book values, second-hand, etc.), it is essential to refer to the step-by-step guidance on deriving appropriate inputs for PIM (refer to Text Box A of the report of the Workshop on Capital Value Estimation, 2019). It is also essential to recall that EU-MAP requests for MSs to collect and report data to end users on capital values, investments and depreciation costs based on economic rather than financial analysis.
- Recall MS to follow Recommendation 6, Technical meeting 2024: “report assumptions used when applying PIM for valuing the fleet or the alternative methods of PIM in the NWP and AR”.
- Valuing fishing rights is challenging due to limited market data, rights often being bundled with vessels, and variability in transferability and duration.
- Indirect methods like DCFM and regression models are essential when prices are not observable, but require solid assumptions (e.g., discount rates, asset lifespan in DCFM).



- The group discussed if economic performance data from the most profitable vessels can provide more realistic estimate (because the most profitable vessels make the price of quota) as well as if the use gross profit may be more suitable for fleets with losses. Also, how to value fishing rights for non-quota species?
- Access to the database on quotas and licenses would help the estimation of the intangible assets.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

2026

Recommendation

ECON_2025_R02: Given the lack of a standardised method in the EU for valuing intangible assets, it is recommended where possible **to collect and compare data from multiple sources regularly**. Combining market price methods with DCFM analysis can improve accuracy. Hedonic regression using second-hand vessel prices offers additional insights, particularly for non-tradeable rights, by isolating the value of embedded licenses and/or quotas. It is also suggested to further investigate **the use of the average economic results for the last 5 years** when calculating the prices using the DCFM, to take into account variation in gross profit.

Rapporteur: *Monica Gabino and Loretta Malvarosa, NISEA, Fishery and Aquaculture Economic Research*





5.8. ToR 8 Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture

Objectives

To follow recommendation 2, as decided in the RCG ECON 2024, a specific session on methodological issues under ToR 2 was organised during the ISSG meeting in May 2025, in Kavala. The objective was to recommend ways to monitor this transition through the existing DCF.

Achievements

Before the workshop, an inventory of the data collection methods on energy consumption was carried out, and the results were presented at the workshop. Presentations of data collection on fuel/energy use from specific MS (Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium), followed by a discussion on the distinction of energy transition between fleet and aquaculture.

The analysis of national work plans showed a broad diversity in how data on fuel and energy use are collected across EU MSs. For the fisheries sector, fuel consumption and costs are relatively well covered in most countries, especially when compared to the aquaculture sector. This is often done through direct measurements in some MSs (e.g. blue diesel registries, tax refund records), detailed questionnaires, or administrative data sources. However, the methods differ substantially, and data on fuel types (e.g., diesel, LNG, biofuels) are currently rarely collected, despite this information becoming increasingly relevant in light of energy transition policies.

Adding fuel type fields to questionnaires is feasible and has already been implemented in some cases (e.g., the RCG ECON report 2025 for fuel use). For countries without such instruments, a dedicated supplementary questionnaire could be introduced. Where financial accounts are the only source, this information is not accessible without additional data collection. As the fuel use by the vessel is by far the most important source of energy use in fisheries, the group suggested to include only this source of energy use in the data collection.

The working group proposed the EU legislation on the transition of marine transport to renewable energy use as reference on the various fuel types. The annex of the regulation lists the various types of fuels and energy sources to be collected.

For the aquaculture sector, data collection on fuel consumption is not carried out so far. From presentation of the Greek case, it shows that collecting this information from aquaculture farms will be challenging, especially in case of large integrated companies: Fuel costs are often combined with other operational costs and the attribution of various forms of fuel to specific activities within the firm (aquaculture, processing, feed) from accounts is highly complex. Moreover, there is a specific issue with electricity, as the source of electricity (either renewable or non-renewable) is not always clear. This view was confirmed by other national experts.

As a result the group concluded that a detailed data collection on energy consumption is feasible for fisheries in most countries. In case of aquaculture, detailed collection on various forms of energy could only be done on a general level. The group proposes that this data collection would be carried out by a questionnaire in which aquaculture operators are asked to what extent they use renewable energy in their company.



The group was aware that it is not clear if the resulting data fits the data needs of the end users. A discussion on these end user needs (STECF and EC) and the resulting data from the data collection programs on energy use needs to be started in order to prevent the collection of data that is not fit for purpose.

During the technical meeting the group discussed about the way forward to implement this data collection in the various national programs. There are various ways in which new data collection requirements could be agreed by MS, having different legal consequence and implementation paths:

- Pilot studies in national programs,
- Recommendation by RCG ECON,
- Inclusion in Regional Workplan,
- Inclusion in formal legislation.

Various MS experts stated that they could not alter their national data collection unless the new data collection requirements were included in the formal legislation and that the legal status of the RWP is not enough to change the collection of official statistics. The group concluded that in order to start data collection in those MS that have this option, a recommendation from RCG ECON would be the most promising way forward, but that discussion between the EU and MSs on this issue needs to be continued to ensure that all MSs can start the collection of these data.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026:

The group concluded that to enable the data collection of fit-for-purpose data on energy use in the fisheries and aquaculture sector:

- A discussion with end users (EC and STECF) would be needed on whether the proposed data collection by RCG ECON would fit the purpose of the data they require.
- EU and the MSs should discuss the potential implementation path of the data collection on energy use. If possible, this discussion should be finalised before October 2025, so that MS can adjust their National plans to include data collection on energy use.
- MSs are encouraged to start data collection on energy use in fisheries and aquaculture following the outcomes of the discussions between end users, EC and the MSs

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions:

The end users (EC and STECF) to comment on whether the suggested activities to cover the end users' data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture align with their needs and if additional actions to increase the knowledge on energy consumption and the link with energy consumption and emissions are needed. This should be done before action is taken by MSS,

MS will start gathering data on the use of fuel in fisheries of various fuel types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport as from 2026. As the vessel's fuel consumption is by far the most critical energy source in fisheries, the vessels' fuel consumption is used as a proxy for energy consumption.

- For MS that use questionnaires, the extra information on the fuel type can be included in the questionnaire.

- For other MSs that do not use questionnaires or detailed accounts, additional data collection from fishermen will be needed through questionnaires.
- Data collection from major fuel providers in fisheries harbours could be used as a fallback option.

As some MS need time to alter their data collection plans this additional data collection is voluntary,

This recommendation is conditional on the agreement of the end users that this data collection will fulfil their needs.

MS will start gathering data on the use of energy in aquaculture of various energy types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport as from 2026. Because of the complexity of the issue, MSs may implement this through a simplified approach by using a questionnaire to ask the operators to what extent they use renewable energy sources in their companies.

As some MS need time to alter their data collection plans this additional data collection is voluntary,

This recommendation is conditional on the agreement of the end users that this data collection will fulfil their needs.

Recommendations

ECON_2025_R03: The RCG ECON group recommends, the end users (EC and STECF) are to provide feedback on whether the suggested activities to cover the end users' data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture align with their needs to monitor energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture. If additional actions are needed to increase knowledge on energy consumption and the link with energy consumption and emissions. This should be done before MSs take action.

ECON_2025_R04: The RCG ECON group recommends that MSs will start gathering data on fuel use in fisheries of various fuel types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport from 2026. As the vessel's fuel consumption is by far the most critical energy source in fisheries, the vessels' fuel consumption is used as a proxy for energy consumption. As some MSs need time to alter their data collection plans, this additional data collection is voluntary.

ECON_2025_R05: The RCG ECON group recommends that on the condition that feedback is provided from the EC, the MS will start gathering data on the use of energy in aquaculture of various energy types as specified in Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 on using renewable and low-carbon fuels from data collection year 2026. Due to the complexity of the issue's, MSs may implement this through adding a question into their standard questionnaire asking the operators to what extent they use renewable energy sources in their companies. As some MSs need time to alter their data collection plans, this additional data collection is voluntary.

Rapporteur: *Hans van Oostenbrugge, Wageningen Social and Economic Research*

5.9. ToR 9. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Low active and active vessels

Objectives

Under the “ToR 9: Low active and active vessels” the main objective was to review the data sources and methodologies used by EU MSs for key variables and derived indicators related to fishing activity, particularly: DaS, maximum sea days a, sub-segmentation of fleets by activity levels (low Active Vs. active vessels) and VUR.

The goal was to assess data quality, consistency, and comparability across countries, to identify methodological issues and potential areas for harmonization and to improve relevance for policy-making. Specific objectives were:

Examine how “DaS” and “maximum sea days” are calculated and reported, including differences in methodology between countries, especially for small vs. large vessels.

Evaluate the use of activity indicators to distinguish between low active and active vessels, including testing of thresholds and definitions.

Assess the calculation and interpretation of the VUR and its relevance for different fleet segments, particularly small-scale fleets.

Provide recommendations for better data collection and reporting practices, focusing on improving the robustness of indicators used in the Annual Economic Report (AER) and EU policy evaluation.

Achievements

Several key achievements from the work conducted under ToR 9: Low active and active vessels were obtained. These achievements focus on improved understanding, data processing, methodological insights, and recommendations. Specifically, below is a structured summary of the main results; a more detailed description can be found in the report of Kavala’s workshop at <https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/rcg-econ/> under the Latest Reports section.

During the analysis 5.075 million Days at Sea were examined for 52,815 active vessels across the EU in 2022 from the Fleet Eco JRC data base. This helped identify key contributors by country and gear type, emphasizing the dominant role of small-scale fisheries (vessels <12 meters), which accounted for 75% of total DaS. The results showed inconsistencies and anomalies in DaS reporting advocating for improved quality controls.

The work achieved a high participation rate with 20 out of 22 MSs responding to the ISSG Methodologies Questionnaire. Comprehensive data was collected on DaS, maximum sea days, and activity levels, disaggregated by country, fleet segment, vessel size, gear type, and fishing region. Additional national datasets from France, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands were also integrated to enrich the analysis on activity levels.

The evaluation and harmonisation of national methodologies documented and compared diverse national practices for estimating DaS, maximum sea days, and activity indicators. It showed the existing variability in DaS estimation methods and data completeness, especially for vessels under 10 meters.

The use of geolocation data for calculating DaS is not systematic. Therefore, cross-validation of data sources, especially between logbooks, sales notes, fuel consumption and geolocation data were strongly promoted to

ensure consistency, enhance accuracy and reliability of DaS. The group also encouraged adoption and further development of the fecR statistical package or other ad-hoc methodology, supporting standardized effort calculation under the EU DCF.

An advancement in estimating maximum Sea Days was the testing of methods. The analysis conducted demonstrated that the 90th percentile (P90) is a more stable and representative metric for estimating maximum sea days, especially in small or heterogeneous segments. It also demonstrated that methods relying on Top 10 averages or maximum values are prone to distortion by outliers. These outliers should be carefully examined.

Activity-based segmentation was successfully applied in several countries (e.g., France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands) to distinguish Low Active (L) from Active (A) vessels. Practical thresholds (e.g., 75 DaS, €10,000–€50,000 turnover) were identified to classify activity levels and support improved sub-segmentation of small-scale fleets.

The work on Vessel Utilization Ratio (VUR) covered more than 400 fleet segments, finding that: 51% (VURn) and 74% (VUR220) of segments fell below the 70% efficiency threshold. Among vessels under 12 meters, 73% of the segments fall below this level, with variations across supra-regions. Although these vessels are generally less active than those over 12 meters, they exhibit greater variability in their days at sea, which contributes to lower VUR values. This variability should be taken into account when defining appropriate VUR thresholds for these segments. The analysis provided evidence that standard VUR indicators may not be suitable for small-scale fisheries due to variable fishing patterns and socio-economic conditions.

Conclusions

The work under ToR9 delivered actionable recommendations to improve:

- Data quality through cross-validation and quality control
- Methodological consistency across MSs
- Segment-level insights by integrating socio-economic and operational metrics into fleet sub-segmentation.

Also, suggested a pragmatic and transparent approach to defining activity thresholds, recognizing variability in data availability and fleet structures.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026

The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair proposes to have an in-depth ISSG workshop to review and revise best practices guidelines from previous workshops (e.g. RCG ISSG SSF and Metier & Transversal variables) to calculate "Total Days at Sea" especially in the context of the development of geolocation data (with the new EU control regulation) and the promotion of cross-validation methods to improve data quality and completeness, especially for SSF.

The RCG ECON and ISSG ToR Chair recommend that MSs explore the implementation of the 90th percentile (90P) method to calculate the maximum number of sea days across all fleet segments, in alignment with ISSG methodological recommendations. To ensure robust and transparent results, MSs are strongly encouraged to perform statistical analyses based on individual vessel-level data, enabling a more accurate and representative assessment. The following guidelines for calculating the 90th percentile (90P) should be applied with:



RCG ECON 2025 REPORT

Progress report on ToRs and work plan

x_n as the days at sea per vessel (1, ..., n)

Let's consider a sorted dataset of n values:

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots \leq x_n$$

The p^{th} percentile (where $p \in [0, 100]$) is defined by:

$$P_p = x_k + d \cdot (x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

where:

- $i = \frac{p}{100} \cdot (n - 1)$
- $k = \lfloor i \rfloor$ (the integer part of i)
- $d = i - k$ (the decimal part of i)

Thus:

$$P_p = x_{\lfloor i \rfloor} + (i - \lfloor i \rfloor) \cdot (x_{\lfloor i \rfloor + 1} - x_{\lfloor i \rfloor})$$

Application to the 90th Percentile:

For a sorted dataset x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , compute:

$$i = 0.9 \cdot (n - 1)$$

Then apply the formula above to interpolate between the values at indices $\lfloor i \rfloor$ and $\lfloor i \rfloor + 1$.

Example with $n = 30$ values

2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Steps to calculate the 90th percentile (P_{90}):

1. Calculate the position i :

$$i = 0.9 \cdot (n - 1) = 0.9 \cdot 29 = 26.1$$

2. Integer part: $\lfloor i \rfloor = 26$

3. Decimal part: $d = 0.1$

4. Values used:

- $x_{27} = 19$
- $x_{28} = 20$

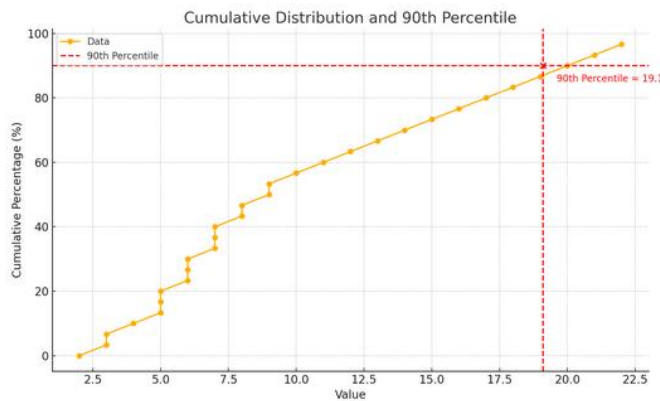
5. Interpolation:

$$P_{90} = x_{27} + 0.1 \cdot (x_{28} - x_{27}) = 19 + 0.1 \cdot (20 - 19) = 19 + 0.1 = 19.1$$

The 90th percentile of this dataset is 19.1.

This means that 90% of the values are less than or equal to 19.1, and only 10% are greater.





Here's the visual representation of the dataset and its **90th percentile** (≈ 19.1) on a cumulative distribution plot. The red dashed lines show the value and the cumulative percentage where the 90th percentile lies. L

The RCG ECON group recommends that the current definition and interpretation of the Vessel Utilisation Ratio (VUR) be reassessed and explicitly tailored for small-scale fleets by the STECF, as the group acknowledges that these current definitions and interpretations do not work well for the small-scale fleet.

Recommendations

ECON_2025_R06: The MS should consider the use of geolocation data for calculating DaS when this data is available. Cross-validation of data sources, especially between logbooks, sales notes, fuel consumption, and geolocation data, should be promoted to ensure consistency, and enhance accuracy and reliability of DaS. This recommendation assumes that the 24-hours period for DaS calculations is applied according to the EU DCF methodology.

ECON_2025_R07: Concerning calculations of DaS for small scale vessels, the RCG ECON group recommends for relevant MS to assess the completeness of declared data (e.g. logbooks), gaps or biases should be identified and reported in the national work programs. Furthermore, the assumptions used in DaS calculations when using data available “day by day” (and not “fishing trip by fishing trip”, e.g. coastal logbooks) should be assessed especially when only sales note data are considered. The assumptions should be evaluated against the EU-agreed definitions, and findings should be documented in the national data collection programs.

ECON_2025_R08: The RCG ECON group recommends exploring what the consequences are of using the 90th percentile (90P) method for the calculation of maximum sea days for fleet segments. This method offers a better balance between capturing the typical behaviour of the fleet and minimizing the impact of outliers when the size of the segment is small.

ECON_2025_R09: The RCG ECON group recommends that the current definition and interpretation of the VUR is reassessed and tailored specifically for small-scale fleets by the STECF, as the group acknowledges that these current definition and interpretation does not work well for the small-scale fleet. Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities should be amended.

Rapporteur: *Olivier Guyader*

5.10. ToR 10. Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Data collection of social aspects

Objectives

The main objective of ToR 10, "Social variables" was to outline the progress made in discussions on the need for enhanced social data under the DCF. Specifically, ToR 10 was built upon prior developments in integrating social variables into the EU fisheries DCF, addressing the long-standing gap in socio-economic assessments. Also, to support and assess pilot studies by MSs aimed at testing the collection, availability, and reliability of social indicators through both primary (e.g., surveys) and secondary (e.g., administrative records) data sources. The broader goal was to establish a consistent and sustainable framework for future social data collection across all sectors, including fisheries, aquaculture, and processing.

Achievements

The ToR began with a presentation by Marlous Kraan, co-chair of the STECF EWG 25-02, on social variables. In her presentation, she outlined the progress made from the first STECF EWG dedicated to social issues in 2019. After discussing the evolution of the concepts of National and Community profiles, she focused in particular on a set of indicators proposed by last year's EWG (EWG 24-05), which consists of 38 indicators grouped by different priorities. Among these, 12 easily accessible indicators were identified.

The ToR also built upon the ISSG on social variables held in September 2024, during which an initial discussion and clarification of the list of variables was made among the participants. Regarding the 12 indicators that are deemed easy to collect ('low-hanging-fruit indicators'), seven MSs have decided to include relevant test studies in their Work Plans, either the complete set (BE, ES, HR, NL) or a subset (EL, FI, SE) presented. In some cases, this set is accompanied by additional indicators, either from the list of 38 indicators (e.g., EL) or not exclusively (HR). Pilot studies were designed to assess the availability, quality, and methodology of social data collection, particularly regarding indicators like financial position, work safety, and generational renewal. Specifically,

- Greece is piloting eight indicators, focusing on small-scale fisheries and combining primary (surveys) and secondary data sources.
- Croatia plans a two-phase study exploring data gaps and methodology for assessing social and financial conditions in all sectors (fisheries, aquaculture, fish processing)
- Sweden is focusing on financial well-being indicators by comparing fishers' income with national averages (8 indicators)
- Belgium is addressing feasibility issues, institutional roles, and data gaps, especially on sensitive topics like safety and workforce renewal, exploring all twelve suggested variables.
- Finland is exploring five indicators using administrative sources and is assessing methodological assumptions due to the absence of a minimum wage.

The ToR 10 continued with discussions and ideas exchange on how to develop simple, effective, reliable, and standardized methods for collecting social data and exploring appropriate methodological approaches tailored to national contexts. Furthermore, discussions focused on clarifying which national institutions are responsible for collecting and managing social data, assessing their level of engagement and preparedness, and identifying obstacles that hinder consistent and harmonized data collection across MSs. These insights are critical for informing EU fisheries policy about working conditions, financial well-being, generational renewal, and the effects of management measures. The overarching aim is the future establishment of a solid foundation for a



harmonized, EU-wide framework for the systematic collection of social data. This framework should ultimately be integrated into the regular operations of the DCF, ensuring coherence, comparability, and continuity across countries and sectors.

In line with the above, key challenges identified during this ToR included the significant variation in the availability and quality of social data across MSs, making cross-country comparisons difficult. In many cases, the division of responsibilities among national institutions for collecting and managing these data remained unclear, creating uncertainty about who is accountable for ensuring data consistency and reporting. It is also important to notice that accessing reliable information on migrant fishers could prove problematic, often due to legal, administrative, or institutional barriers. Finally, several indicators (e.g., the "Financial Position" variable) were found to lack clear and commonly agreed definitions, leading to inconsistencies in interpretation and methodological approaches.

The ToR concluded by emphasizing the need for harmonized methodologies in the future, continued dialogue at RCG ECON and STECF meetings, and an ISSG review in mid-2026. It also recommends encouraging more MSs to join the pilot phase to establish a consistent and comparable EU-wide framework for future social data collection in the fisheries, aquaculture, and processing sectors.

Workplan for 2025 – 2026:

The 2026 ISSG meeting will evaluate pilot outcomes and methodological standards, fostering consistency across countries.

Recommendations

ECON_2025_R10: The RCG ECON group recommends that the new social indicator "Financial Position" should be renamed to avoid overlap with an existing Annual Economic Report (AER) economic indicator.

ECON_2025_R11: The RCG ECON group recommends that MSs which have included a test study on the collection of new social data in their WP provide results of their year-long test study or first-year work at a dedicated RCG ECON ISSG workshop on social aspects.

ECON_2025_R12: The RCG ECON group recommends that the ToR for the STECF EWG on Social Data include analyses of Aquaculture and Fish Processing social data.

Rapporteur: *Angelos Liontakis*





5.11. ToR 11. RCG ECON and ICES WGECON collaboration

Objectives -Achievements

Arina Motova-Surmava made a presentation on behalf of the ICES Working Group on Economics ([WGECON](#)) that addresses the challenge of bringing fisheries economics into ICES science and advice. The tasks of WGECON include mapping current work and identifying future needs, looking into links with international organizations, reporting on information needed for trade-off analysis of fishing impacts and ecosystem services (see [review and future perspectives](#)), and assessing the economic significance of fishing (see [ICES Ecosystem overviews](#) - Celtic Seas 2022 and North Sea 2022). The group is using DCF economic data for ecosystem overviews and aiming to improve the use of economic data at ICES, incorporating it into the advice products. The group is open to new members and is keen on collaborating with RCG ECON in the following fields:

- Development of methods and procedures for partitioning economic data to lower resolution (WGECON work on EO and WKTRADE4 report, SECFISH package)
- Collaboration on data needs and requirements for potential future ICES data calls
- Wider share of expertise and practices applied outside the EU

Workplan for 2025 – 2026:

N/A

Recommendation:

N/A

Rapporteur: Arina Motova-Surmava





6. Next meetings

RCG ECON 2026

Preliminary ToRs:

- Feedback from ISSGs.
- Feedback from the Commission, the STECF EWGs and other end users.
- Feedback from Eurostat on aquaculture quality reports.
- Adjustment of the RCG ECON guidelines on variables and methods.

Chairs: Adelbert De Clercq & Sarah Perry

Dates: May 2026

Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria

Number of days: 3-4 days (hybrid), Tuesday start date to allow for travel on Monday.

RCG ECON ISSG: Exploring options for data collection for new social variables

Ref. recommendation: ECON_2025_R11

Preliminary ToRs (TBD):

- Pilot studies of new social variables and available data sources.
- Implementation issues.

Chair: Angelos Lontakis

Dates: Spring 2025

Venue: Online

Number of days: 2-3 days (Online)



Annex I. List of Participants

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RCG ECON 2025 REPORT

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RCG ECON 2025 REPORT

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Annex II. Agenda for RCG ECON 2025

Time (CET)	Topic	TOR	Presenter
Monday 12th May			
12:30	testing		
	Welcome and introduction		
13:00	Welcome, house rules, adoption of the agenda, format of the report, notification of AOB		RCG chairs
	Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission		
	Discussion:	ToR 1	Monika Sterczewska
13:30	1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
	Feedback from the STECF EWGs		
	Discussion:	ToR 2	Jarno Virtanen
14:00	1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
14:30	Coffee break		
	RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries		
	Discussion:	ToR 3	Stefanos Kavadas
15:00	1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
	RCG Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation - update on progress		
15:30		ToR 4	RCGs secretariat/Rosa Fernández
	Panregional ISSG - RWP - Feedback		
	Discussion:	ToR 5	Adelbert De Clercq
15:45	1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
16:15	Summary of the 1st day		RCG chairs
17:00	END OF A DAY		

Time	Topic	TOR	Presenter
Tuesday 13th May			
9:00	testing/chat		
	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues		
	Discussion:	ToR 6	Christos Danatskos
9:15	1. General introduction and feedback 2. define next step, short/ long term actions		

9:45	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Valuation of Capital Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 7	Monica Gambino / Loretta Malvarosa
11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11:30	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 8	Hans van Oostenbrugge
13:00	<i>LUNCH</i>		
14:30	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Low active and active vessels Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 9	Olivier Guyader
15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16:00	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - finalising discussion ToR 6- 9 Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 6-9	Hans van Oostenbrugge
16:30	Summary of the 2nd day		RCG chairs
17:00	<i>END OF A DAY</i>		

Time	Topic	TOR	Presenter
Wednesday 14th May			
9:00	testing/chat		
9:30	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Data collection of social aspects Short introduction of ToR Content of ToR	ToR 10	Angelos Lontakis
10:00	Feedback EWG Social Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 10a	Marloes Kraan
11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11:30	Feedback ISSG Methodological Issues - Data collection of social aspects	ToR 10	Angelos Lontakis



RCG ECON 2025 REPORT

Annex II. Agenda for RCG ECON 2025

	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
13:00 LUNCH			
	RCG ECON and ICES WGECON collaboration		
14:30	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR II	Arina Motova
15:00 Coffee break			
	Any Other Business		
15:30	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR I2	RCG Chairs
	Drafting the recommendations and the report		
16:00	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		RCG chairs
16:30	Summary of the 3th day		RCG chairs
17:00 END OF A DAY			

Time	Topic	TOR	Presenter
Thursday 15th May			
9:00	testing/chat		
	Drafting the recommendations and the report		
9:30	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		RCG chairs
11:30 Coffee break			
	Summary, overview of Intersessional work 2024-2025, tasks, new chair		
12:00	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		RCG chairs
12:30	Summary of the last day		
13:30 END OF THE MEETING			

