# Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/910 of 13 March 2019 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

## COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2019/910

## of 13 March 2019

## establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008[(1)], and in particular the first and second subparagraphs of Article 4(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Pursuant to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(2)], the Member States are to collect biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data necessary for fisheries management. The multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (EU MAP)[(3)] for the period 2017-2019 was adopted by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251[(4)] and will expire on 31 December 2019.

(2) The multiannual Union programme is necessary for Member States to specify and plan their data collection activities in their national work plans. In accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(5)] these national work plans are to be submitted to the Commission by 31 October preceding the year from which the work plan is to apply.

(3) In order to prepare the review of the current EU MAP after 2019, consultations with experts under the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries, regional coordination groups, Member State representatives and other relevant stakeholders are ongoing and will be finalised only at the end of 2019. As a result, the new EU MAP taking into account the outcomes of these consultations cannot be adopted before 2021.

(4) For the period from 2020 to 2021 it is, therefore, necessary to adopt the provisions on the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data, included in the current EU MAP, on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.

(5) This decision therefore establishes, in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, detailed arrangements on collection and management of biological,

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environmental, technical and socioeconomic data by Member States as referred to in Article 5(1)(a) of that Regulation. The list of mandatory surveys at sea and thresholds below which it is not mandatory for Member States to collect data based on their fishing and aquaculture activities or carry out research surveys at sea, as referred to in Article 5(1)(b) and (c), are provided for by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/909[(6)].

(6) For the purposes of legal certainty, Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/909 establishing the list of mandatory surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors repeals Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 with effect from 1 January 2020,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2020-2021 covering the detailed list of data requirements as referred to in point (a) of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

*Article 2*

This Decision shall enter into force with its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and shall apply from 1 January 2020.

Done at Brussels, 13 March 2019.

*For the Commission*

*The President*

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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ANNEX

## CHAPTER I[7]

### Definitions

For the purpose of this Annex, definitions in Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009[8], Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011[9], and Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall apply. In addition, the following definitions shall also apply:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) **active vessels** | : | vessels that have been engaged in any fishing operation (one day or more) during a calendar year. A vessel that has not been engaged in fishing operations during a year is considered 'inactive'. |
| (2) **anadromous species** | : | living aquatic resources with lifecycle starting by hatching in freshwater, migrating to saltwater, returning and finally spawning in freshwater. |
| (3) **catadromous species** | : | living aquatic resources with lifecycle starting by hatching in saltwater, migrating to freshwater, returning and finally spawning in saltwater. |
| (4) **catch fraction** | : | a part of the total catch, such as the part of the catch landed above the minimum conservation reference size, the part landed below the minimum conservation reference size, the part discarded below the minimum conservation reference size, de minimis discards or discards. |
| (5) **days at sea** | : | any continuous period of 24 hours (or part thereof) during which a vessel is present within an area and absent from port. |
| (6) **fishing days** | : | any calendar day at sea in which a fishing operation takes place, without prejudice to the international obligations of the Union and its Member States. One fishing trip can contribute to both the sum of the fishing days for passive gears and the sum of the fishing days for active gears on that trip. |
| (7) **fishing ground** | : | (group of) geographical units where fishing takes place. These units shall be agreed at marine region level on the basis of existing areas defined by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations or scientific bodies. |
| (8) **fleet segment** | : | group of vessels with the same length class (LOA, length overall) and predominant fishing gear during the year. |
| (9) **metier** | : | a group of fishing operations targeting a similar (assemblage of) species, using similar gear[10], during the same period of the year and/or within the same area and which are characterised by a similar exploitation pattern. |
| (10) **research surveys at sea** | : | trips carried out on a research vessel, or a vessel dedicated to scientific research for stock and ecosystem monitoring, and designated for this task by the body in charge of the implementation of the national workplan established in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014. |

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## CHAPTER II[11]

### Data collection methods

Data collection methods and quality shall be appropriate for the intended purposes defined in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and shall follow the best practices and relevant methodologies advised by the relevant scientific bodies. To this end, the methods and the result of the application of the methods shall be examined at regular intervals by independent scientific bodies in order to verify that they are appropriate with respect to the management of the common fisheries policy.

## CHAPTER III[12]

### Data requirements

1. **Data sets**

1.1. Under the workplans drawn up in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, Member States shall establish the data to be collected amongst the following sets as specified in points 2 to 7 of this Chapter:

(a) biological data, by catch fraction, on stocks caught by Union commercial fisheries in Union and outside Union waters and by recreational fisheries in Union waters;

(b) data to assess the impact of Union fisheries on the marine ecosystem in Union waters and outside Union waters;

(c) detailed data on the activity of Union fishing vessels in Union waters and outside Union waters as reported under Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;

(d) social and economic data on fisheries[13];

(e) social, economic and environmental data on aquaculture;

1.2. The data to be collected shall be established in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 taking into account the thresholds set out in Chapter II of the Annex of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/909 establishing the list of mandatory surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

1.3. Data shall be collected to enable valid estimates to be derived for the type of fisheries, temporal periods and areas based on end-user needs agreed at marine region level. The frequency of data collection is to be coordinated at marine region level, unless stated otherwise in this Annex and corresponding tables.

2. **Biological data on stocks caught by Union commercial fisheries in Union and outside Union waters and by recreational fisheries in Union waters.**

Such data shall consist of the following:

(a) Catch quantities by species and biological data from individual specimens enabling the estimation of:

  (i) For commercial fisheries, volume and length frequency of all catch fractions (including discards and unwanted catches) for the stocks listed in Tables 1A, 1B and 1C, reported at the aggregation level 6 as set out in Table 2. The

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temporal resolution shall be coordinated at marine region level based on end-user needs;

(ii) For commercial fisheries, mean-weight and age distribution of catches of the stocks listed in Table 1A, 1B and 1C. The selection of stocks from which these variables have to be collected and the temporal resolution shall be coordinated at marine region level based on end-user needs;

(iii) For commercial fisheries, sex-ratio, maturity and fecundity data for stocks listed in Tables 1A, 1B and 1C of catches at frequencies needed for scientific advice. The selection of stocks from which these variables have to be collected and the temporal resolution shall be coordinated at marine region level based on end-user needs;

(iv) For recreational fisheries, annual volume (numbers and weights or length) of catches and releases for the species listed in Table 3 and/or the species identified at marine region level as needed for fisheries management purposes End user needs for age or other biological data as specified in paragraphs (i)-(iii) shall be evaluated for recreational fisheries at marine region level.

(b) In addition to data collected under point (a), data on anadromous and catadromous species listed in Table 1E caught by commercial fisheries during the freshwater part of their lifecycle, irrespective of the way these fisheries are undertaken, as follows:

(i) stock-related variables (for individual specimens, on age, length, weight, sex, maturity and fecundity, by life stage, but further specified on a species and regional basis), and

(ii) annual catch quantities by age class or life stage.

(c) In addition:

as regards eel, information (e.g. data, estimates, relative trends, etc.) collected annually in at least one river basin per eel management unit on:

(i) the abundance of recruits,

(ii) the abundance of the standing stock (yellow eel), and

(iii) the number or weight and sex ratio of emigrating silver eels,

and as regards all wild salmon: information collected annually — unless agreed otherwise at regional level — on the abundance of smolt and parr and number of ascending individuals.

The designation of rivers to be monitored for eel and salmon shall be defined at regional level. The selection of stocks from which these variables have to be collected shall be coordinated at regional level based on end-user needs.

3. **Data to assess the impact of Union fisheries on marine ecosystems in Union waters and outside Union waters**

Such data shall consist of the following:

(a) For all types of fisheries, incidental by-catch of all birds, mammals and reptiles and fish protected under Union legislation and international agreements, including the