Workshop on Data Collection Methods

Applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of GFCM Task 1

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Introduction

- Malta collects the following fisheries-related data:
 - Biological data
 - Transversal data
 - Economic data
- Malta collects data as required by the EU Data Collection Framework (EC 93/2010)

Biological Data

- Biological data is collected through;
 - Scientific dependant surveys (MEDITS, MEDIAS)
 - Scientific independent surveys by;
 - On-board observations for metiers chosen by the ranking system (which have discards) as explained in EC 93/2010
 - Market sampling for the other metiers chosen by the ranking system (which have no discards)
- Type of biological data collected:
 - Length
 - Weight
 - Sex
 - Maturity stage
 - Age

Biological data (2)

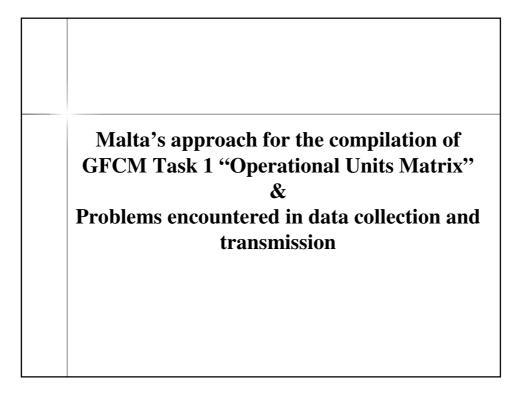
- Species sampled:
 - For length, all groups of species (listed in Appendix VII of EC 93/2010) encountered during biological sampling (on-board/market)
 AND target species of MEDITS surveys, including all sharks and rays
 - For weight, sex and maturity stage;
 - data from MEDITS survey
 - data from concurrent sampling for all Group 1 species (Appendix VII of EC 93/2010), and some Group 2 species (Octopus vulgaris, Coryphaena hippurus)
 - For age;
 - Coryphaena hippurus
 - Thuunus thynnus
 - Xiphias gladius

Transversal data

- Malta collects transversal data namely;
 - LANDINGS data; Census approach for vessels > 10 m
 LOA and sampling survey for vessels < 10 m LOA.
 - EFFORT data; Census approach for vessels > 10 m
 LOA and sampling survey for vessels < 10 m LOA
 - CAPACITY data; Census approach From Fleet Register

Economic data

- Malta collects fisheries-related economic data annually for the following;
 - Economic survey for the evaluation of the fishing sector; sampled vessels are according to the fleet segmentation in Appendix III of EC 93/2010
 - Economic data on the Aquaculture industry; Census
 - Economic data on the Processing industry; Census



Task 1.1 – Fleet and Area variables

- SAC Fleet segment
 No problem encountered,
- Total number of vessels

 No difficulties encountered.
- Tonnage unit and value (GT)

No difficulties encountered.

Task 1.1 – Fleet and Area variables (cont).

■ GSA

No major difficulties encountered.

However in the current European Commission Logbook Regulation EC2807/83, it is not a requisite to report catches by GSA. This should be improved with the proposed GFCM logbook. Maltese data is reported in GSA 15.

Task 1.2 – Main resources and activity components variables per Operational Units.

■ Fishing gear, Gear Classes, Activity

No difficulties encountered.

■ Target species

The target species is not a requisite neither in the current Commission Logbook Regulation EC2807/83 nor in the market sales vouchers and thus for the purpose of compilation of GFCM Task 1. Malta determines the target species based on gear used and composition of the catch.

Task 1.2 – Main resources and activity components variables per Operational Units (cont).

Group of target species and main associated species

For certain species it is difficult to determine the group of target species especially for shelf slope species i.e. if they are to be classified as "demersal shelf species" or "demersal slope species" (e.g. Merluccius merluccius).





Task 1.2 – Main resources and activity components variables per Operational Units (cont).

■ Fishing period (start and end month) and Fishing Area No problems encountered.

Other constraints:

- > In cases were the fishing period of a particular fishery starts in one year and ends in the next (e.g. *Coryphaena* season between Aug 2009 and Jan 2010), which data is to be reported, while also taking into consideration the biological and economical parameters?
- It is not possible to separate data of three different traps specifically designed to target three different species namely, *Octopus vulgaris*, *Boops boops* and *Spicara* spp., under the same heading "traps" during the same fishing period. (Technical problem).

Task 1.4 – Effort variables

■ **Effort measure** - according to Annex 2 of Resolution GFCM/31/2007/3.

Clarifications;

- Trawls: Gt*days means "average GT*Number of fishing days or days at sea?
- ➤ Purse seine: Fishing sets means "number of fishing operations"?
- ➤ FAD's: Number of FAD's means "number of FAD's fished" or number of FAD's laid?

Due to the above for 2009 the values of effort were expressed as follows:

➤Time in Fishing Days

➤ Capacity in Average GT



Task 1.4 – Effort variables (cont).

Other constraints:

Calculation of fishing effort for trawls targeting both demersal shelf and demersal slope species during the same fishing operation/trip. (For the DCF Malta adopts the segmentation as detailed in EC 949/08, EC 93/2010 i.e. Mixed demersal and deep water species)

Solution: Divide effort in days by 2? (1 day/2 = 0.5 days)?

■ LPUE

No difficulties encountered.

Task 1.5 – Provisional biological parameters

Length range of captured species and length average

At present, Malta can provide the mean length and length range for the following target species:

- > Thunnus thynnus caught by drifting longlines and Tuna purse seines.
- Xiphias gladius caught by drifting longlines.
- > Coryphaena hippurus caught by FAD's and drifting longlines.
- Aristaeomorpha foliacea, Parapenaeus longirostris, Merluccius merluccius, Mullus barbatus and Mullus surmuletus caught by bottom otter trawls.
- > Octopus vulgaris, Eledone spp., and other cephalopods caught by pots, traps and trawls
- ➤ Shark species caught by longlines and, trawls

For other species such information may be obtained from survey data (MEDITS).

Task 1.5 – Provisional biological parameters (cont).

■ Sex & Maturity

These parameters were removed following discussions during the 10th Session of the CSI meeting in Malaga, Spain, 30 November – 3 December 2009.

During this meeting it was agreed that "Task 1.5 should only give partial biological information on the fraction of the population targeted by Operational Unit. Following the discussion, the SCSI suggested to maintain in this section only the fields related to the size of the fish (min, max and mean of the length measure) and remove the fields regarding sex and maturity scales".

To be clarified as these parameters still appear in the database.

Task 1.3 – Economic components variables

Economic variables collected as part of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) can be used with slight modification in terms of presentation for the purpose of the GFCM Task 1 concept

■ Engine power

No difficulties encountered.

■ Employment

Total number of people employed per vessel will be used for the calculation of this variable. No difficulties are expected to be encountered.

Task 1.3 – Economic components variables (cont).

■ Salary Share (%)

➤ Revenue used to calculate the percentage of salary share must include possible subsidies received and any other income apart from the revenue earned from the sale of landings?

Malta believes that total income including subsidies and other income for the purpose of this calculation should be used.

Guidelines state that salary and wages must be derived by deducting costs from revenue. It is also possible for Malta to calculate this as part of crew costs as it is already collected for the purpose of the Data Collection Framework.

Task 1.3 – Economic components variables (cont).

■ Landing weight and Landing value

No problems encountered

■ Vessel value of total fleet

The capital replacement value per vessel will be used for the calculation of this variable. No difficulties are expected to be encountered.

■ Fishing days per year

Means fishing days per year per vessel?

■ Fishing hours per day

Means fishing hours per day per vessel?

Task 1.3 – Economic components variables (cont).

■ Cost of fishing per day

Malta assumes that the name of the variable cost of fishing per day means cost of fishing per day per vessel.

Yearly fixed costs

Malta assumes that the name of the variable yearly fixed costs means yearly fixed costs per vessel.

Malta will not be able to present data (Task 1.3) of year n-1 by the month of May of year n but will only be able to present the data of the year n-2. This is due to the fact that an accounting year closes on the 31 December of each year and by May of the following year the accounts would not be readily available.

General Conclusions By May 2011, if these clarifications are addressed, Malta should be able to overcome most of the above problems and constraints and thus be able to fulfil its obligations towards Recommendation GFCM33/2009/3 and submit its data related to GFCM Tasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 on an annual basis.

THANK YOU