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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

<b>COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS</b>
<b>Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups Joint Session</b>
<b>Eighth Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS) Thirty meeting of the Fisheries Subject Group (FS)</b>
<b>28- 30 June 2023</b>
<b>Meeting place: Hybrid - NEAFC headquarters London, United Kingdom/Zoom</b>
<b>Relevant activities carried out by ICES during the intersessional period (July 2022-June 2023)</b>
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#### Catch and effort concepts:

In the last year ICES has incorporated several Industry surveys into their managed databases. One industry survey is available in DATRAS, others in acoustic?

Level 6 metier codes have been harmonized and defined by RCGs and are available in an ICES vocabulary at [//vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1647](https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1647). Further details, scripts and documentation can be found at: <https://github.com/ices-eg/RCGs/tree/master/Metiers>

Working group on technology integration for fishery-dependent data:

<https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGTIFD.aspx>

Emerging technologies to estimate effort. Among its Terms of Reference it has the task to “*Define vocabulary across electronic technologies (ETs) for fisheries dependent data collection*”

#### Small scale fisheries:

The ICES Working Group on Commercial Catches, [WGCATCH](#), has a subgroup on SSF that meets yearly and reviews developments in sampling and estimation practices for collection of fishing activity variables and biological data in SSF with the objective to ensure that the collection of fishing data from SSF across Europe is sufficient for main end-users needs, harmonised and comparable and to improve their quality. In 2019, WGCATCH SSF developed a risk assessment methodology to evaluate the data quality and risk level of incomplete data issues’ risk (low, medium or high)

The ICES Working group on spatial fisheries data, [WGSFD](#), that collates and analyses spatial fisheries data in order to evaluate fishing effort, intensity and frequency in European waters have been recently

trying to develop metrics to estimate fishing effort for SSF. A dedicated workshop to work on small scale fisheries ([WKSSFGE0](#)) met in 2021 to develop standard procedures for identifying fishing activity from SSF.

A second workshop was convened in 2023 ([WKSSFGE02](#)) to continue the work started at [WKSSFGE0](#) and additionally to provide an overview of the extent of small-scale fisheries in EU waters using data already available (FDI database, VMS and logbook, Global fishing watch). The workshop report will be used as the scientific basis to respond to an EU request to explore the spatial and temporal distribution and intensity of fishing using bottom-contacting gears for vessels below 12m in length, with or without VMS in EU waters (in progress)

### Reference harmonization:

#### Reference Management Group activity

### Aquaculture:

Aquaculture is a high-priority topic for ICES and our work on aquaculture is part of a wider portfolio of work that seeks to advance and share a scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide—and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals. ICES Aquaculture overview are advisory products that

1. Summarize regional and temporal information on aquaculture activities, practices, and production of the cultured taxa;
2. Describe the relevant policy and legal foundation as well as management frameworks;
3. consider the environmental and socio-economic interactions of aquaculture activities and practices;
4. Provide insights on the interaction of environmental, economic, and social drivers; and,
5. Consider future projections and emerging threats and opportunities.

ICES develops Aquaculture Overviews at the ecoregion level, and we have published overviews of the [Norwegian Sea Ecoregion](#), the [Celtic Seas Ecoregion](#), and the [Faroes Ecoregion](#). A workshop to develop the scientific foundation for the Aquaculture Overview of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coastal Ecoregion is scheduled for October 2024 ([WKBoBICAO registration](#)). Future Aquaculture Overviews will be developed for the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Iceand ecoregions and more.

The [Aquaculture Steering Group](#) at ICES coordinates and leads the development of the science to support sustainable aquaculture in the ICES area and beyond. Our expert groups meet annually and work on topics including:

- the social and economic dimensions of aquaculture operations ([WGSEDA](#)),
- the types, transmission and prevalence of diseases affecting cultured species and actions that can be taken to address them ([WGPDMO](#)),
- the environmental impacts of aquaculture, approaches to monitor and mitigate them and methods of aquaculture risk assessment ([WGREIA](#)),
- open ocean aquaculture ([WGOOA](#)),
- the ecological carrying capacity and relative efficiencies of alternate aquaculture systems ([WGECCA](#)),
- the application of genetics in aquaculture ([WGAGFA](#)), and
- projecting the future development of aquaculture and its implications for the food system and food security ([WGSPA](#)).