



Market Advisory Council

Exchange with JRC Secretariat's Notes

Thursday, 7 May 2020

WEBEX Meeting

Attendees:

- Sean O'Donoghue, Chair of Working Group 1, MAC
- Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General, MAC
- Natacha Carvalho, Project Officer - Scientific Research, JRC (STECF focal points)
- Jordi Guillen, Project Officer – Scientific Research, JRC (STECF focal points)

Sean O'Donoghue explained that the overall aim was how to help STECF improve the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet. The Chair emphasised that STECF should have access to sales notes data, in order to have better information on the average price. It is important to determine how this data could be released while respecting GDPR rules. The Chair mentioned that some of the price averages did not make sense, for example mackerel, since there was an impact of the geographical areas covered.

The Chair expressed his hope of the MAC continuing to attend STECF's Annual Meeting and of continued cooperation between the MAC and STECF.

Natacha Carvalho stated that access to price data was an ongoing discussion. It is important to have access to control price data (sales notes), at least in an aggregated form that protects privacy. Control price data will also be needed to consider the impact of COVID-19. There are national experts that do not have access to the data.

Sean O'Donoghue wanted to know if STECF would be able to use data on price, based on area and fleet, supplied by the MAC.

Natacha Carvalho explained that STECF must use the official data for the annual reports. In the forecasts, STECF can use data from other sources.

Sean O'Donoghue requested information on the source of the data and the averages.

Natacha Carvalho explained that it came from a data call. Member States provide the data and have their own programs and surveys. Control data are used, including logbook data and sales notes. Often data are lacking for the under 10 m vessels. STECF does not receive data by fish size and seasonality.





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Sean O'Donoghue exemplified that the specific set on pelagic species was quite accurate and there had been access to aggregated data on sales notes.

Jordi Guillen explained that the data call goes from the Commission to the Member States. STECF cannot change the official data. In projections, STECF can use independent data. Without access to the sales notes, the data depends on the Member States. Some Member States focus on the sales notes, while others focus on surveys. There are also issues of fleets that sell products to themselves.

Sean O'Donoghue recognised that it was a real issue. There are fishing vessels that are also processing vessels, so the buying and the selling company are the same, which can distort the figures. The Chair wanted to know if the Commission could ask Member States for aggregated sales data by fleet segment. The Chair underscored that the MAC appreciates the fleet report, particularly the projections.

Jordi Guillen offered to ask internally.

Natacha Carvalho stated that the Member States have access to the data and the information is coming from them. It is a request for the Member States. There is a data quality issue when the average prices are the same for the whole fleet.

Sean O'Donoghue stated that the MAC can discuss the matter with the Commission.

Natacha Carvalho wanted to know if the MAC would be interested in more specific analysis. If yes, for which species, fleet segments, and areas. The MAC could identify some key stocks.

Sean O'Donoghue highlighted that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, prices have collapsed and the modelling for 2020 and 2021 will probably need to be changed.

Jordi Guillen informed that STECF has started working on the methodology and estimations. There will be data from EUMOFA and potentially control data, but also complementary data from experts with individual questionnaires.

Sean O'Donoghue drew attention to the ongoing fuel situation, where the prices have decreased substantially. This has had different effects on different fleets.

In relation to aquaculture, the Chair highlighted that aquaculture colleagues had expressed interest on having an annual STECF report, instead of every two years, as detailed as the fleet report.

Jordi Guillen expressed openness to suggestions related to aquaculture reports.



Summary of Action Points:

- **Possible advice to European Commission and Member States**
 - Sales notes data: request aggregated data for STECF, in order to improve price averages, while respecting GDPR rules.
 - Aquaculture: propose annual detailed reports on the aquaculture sector.
- **Possible suggestions to STECF**
 - Specific analysis: identify topics, including species, areas, and fleet segments.
- **Continued MAC-STECF cooperation:**
 - Annual meetings: attendance of STECF meetings, by WG1 Chair or other WG1 member, as observer.
 - MAC meetings: presentations by STECF experts of annual reports.
 - STECF Forecasts: possibility to provide independent data.

