



Project no. 025989

MARIFISH

Coordination of European Marine Fisheries Research Programme

Instrument: FP6

Thematic Priority: ERA-Net

MariFish WP7 / Implementation of collaborative programme "Towards adopting an ecosystem based approach for fisheries management in the Channel"

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DRAFT

Joint request by the both Research Institutes Ifremer and Cefas to respectively the Directorate for Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA) France and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) UK to enable the sharing of data (VMS and logbook) on the fishing fleets operating in the English Channel (ICES Division VIIe and VIID) in the view of their dissemination under an aggregated format.

The four parties:

French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer)

Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

Directorate for Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA) France

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) UK

Background: As part of the MariFish collaborative programme in the English Channel and the Intereg project Charm3, the exchange of VMS data in the East and West Channel between the English and French authorities has been identified as a priority to obtain a complete and comprehensive picture of fishing pressure and its impact on habitat and biodiversity.

Objective: It is proposed (i) to provide a shared global vision of fishing effort in the Channel for a better understanding and knowledge of fishing activities and exploited ecosystems, (ii) National approaches which could promote the pooling of research efforts such as: concepts, methods of data acquisition, analysis and tools proposed for the decision, (iii) an overview of fishing activity and interaction with the habitats in the Channel to be used by scientific projects whose results would be utilized by fisheries managers.

The Channel territory of which is shared by only two countries, France and the United Kingdom, is a favorable case study to build this common approach.

Two scenario for sharing information:

A. Sharing the whole channel VMS data between the French and UK administration and fisheries institutes.

Yet, VMS data affected by the Cod recovery Plan are shared between the different concerned countries. **The extension of this sharing agreement between France and UK for all the vessels that are acting in the Channel inside both EEZ would be the best solution for research efficiency.** These data could be included in the flow of data sent respectively by the DPMA to the Ifremer and by Defra to the Cefas, where automatic procedures already exist. Sharing these information will help to test the different methodologies applied on raw data processing and will help to solve some issues encountered by Cefas and Ifremer, for example when a vessel crossing several times the EEZ boundary (the absence of the last point in the EEZ of country A before crossing the boundary generates an under-estimation of fishing activity in the EEZ of country B).

For the non-UK and non-French vessels, the sharing of the data in the Channel is the only solution for having a correct estimation of their fishing activity.

B. If the first scenario is proved not feasible, aggregated data could be shared according to the following yearly basis:

Both institutes will process their national vessels (Ifremer for French vessels, Cefas for UK vessels), using their own methodology. **The results would be shared at an aggregated level to have a complete and complete representation of the fishing activities in the Channel (for the vessels more than 15m).**

It would necessary to check that both methodologies give similar results, i.e by using a common dataset. This dataset already exists: the French vessels that are in the UK waters and the UK vessels that are in the French waters. These data theoretically exist in both French and English VMS datasets and should therefore be identical, but this has to be

checked. So each institute should supply the complete list of these “common data sets”. The following data for a test case (2008 exercise) would be provided:

- Vessel identifier, CFR code
- Starting date for the year in the Channel
- Ending date for the year in the Channel
- Number of days for the year in the Channel
- Number of positions (pings) per month
- Average time interval between two positions (pings)
- Concerned by the Cod Recovery Plan (Yes/No)

After checking that dataset are the same, each institute would then process the data to estimate their activity indicators and effort estimates on their own fleet and send to the partner institute, on a yearly basis, for this particular segment of the fleet by EEZ the following aggregated data:

- Number of boats (without duplicates)
- Number of days at sea (calendar days)
- Number of positions (pings)
- Number of fishing hours
- Total number of hours (fishing + steaming)

Sharing this information would allow determining whether 1) both methodologies used by the two institutes provide similar results on common dataset (UK vessels in French waters and French vessels in UK waters) and if yes 2) being able to sum both results in every 3 minutes by 3 minutes grid cells to provide a global information for the whole Channel sorted by gear type, métier, for the vessels present in the EEZ of both countries.

For the non French and non UK vessels, sharing the raw data from the Channel is the only way to have a good estimate on of their fishing efforts.

If the exchange processes are validated with the 2008 Data, it will be later extended to an annual exchange between the two countries.

Sharing aggregated monthly data provided by the processing of logbooks and other fishing information sources

This data allow completing the information about the distribution of fisheries effort and catches for the vessels with a length less than 15 metres, not equipped with VMS devices; which represent ~80% of the total fleet activity in the Channel. Monthly aggregated shared data could be:

By statistical rectangle, year, month, register harbour, landing harbour, length class (exemple: -10m; 10-12m; 12-15m; 15 to 24m and +24m).
By Gear code (DCF level 4), Charm gear code, metier code DCF level 6, Charm metier code, fleet DCF, fleet Charm

- Number of boats (without duplicates)
- Number of days at sea (calendar days)
- Number of trips? (maree)
- Number of fishing hours
- Catching weights (kg) by species (code FAO)

Guarantees for the use of data requested

Whatever the sharing of information proposal chosen by the French and UK authorities (raw or aggregated VMS data and logbook data), both institutes will guarantee that in this directive at the Channel scale, not to publish or distribute to third party:

- Individual information
- Tracks of raw positions (pings). The minimal aggregated scale is 3 minutes by 3 minutes
- No synthesis of aggregated French and UK data is authorized in real time.
No communication of this synthesis should be made concerning the current year.
- Minimal temporal aggregation is by month

All these agreements should be integrated in a four-party convention which will set the rules for JPR, confidentiality, database hosting and diffusion of the results.