EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 5.2.2019
COM(2019) 47 final

# REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

## on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on the submission of statistical data on landings of fishery products in Member States

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

**on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on the submission of statistical data on landings of fishery products in Member States**

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Commission (Eurostat) collects statistics on landings of fishery products under Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006[1] ('the Regulation'). According to the Regulation, landings are defined as fishery products landed on Member States' territory by EU and EFTA fishing vessels, or landed on non-EU territory by Member State vessels and then imported into the EU[2]. Article 10 of the Regulation states that every 3 years the Commission must submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council assessing, in particular, the quality and the relevance of the statistics. The report must also analyse the cost-effectiveness of the system for collecting statistical data on landings and highlight any best practices that could be shared to lessen the workload at national level and lead to more useful, higher-quality data.

The Regulation applies to EU Member States and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. However as it relates to landings of marine catch, landlocked countries are exempted from the data reporting obligation.

This report is based on (i) the quality reports on landings submitted by the reporting Member States to Eurostat for the reference year 2016, (ii) compliance analysis and (iii) cost data collected by Eurostat.

The Commission adopted previous assessment reports concerning statistics on landings submitted under this Regulation in November 2010[3], April 2014[4] and May 2016[5].

Eurostat's fisheries statistics also include detailed statistics on catches, fleet and aquaculture in addition to those on landings. Other Commission departments, mainly DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), also collect a large amount of administrative data in order

[1] Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on the submission of statistical data on landings of fishery products in Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1382/91 (OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

[2] This means that these statistics are not comparable to landing data collected under Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, where data are collected by vessel's flag country.

[3] Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006 on the submission of statistical data on landings of fishery products in Member States; COM(2010) 675 final.

[4] Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006 on the submission of statistical data on landings of fishery products in Member States; COM(2014) 240 final.

[5] Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006 on the submission of statistical data on landings of fishery products in Member States; COM(2016) 239 final.

to manage the common fisheries policy. The statistics collected by Eurostat and the administrative data collected by DG MARE partially overlap. Eurostat has launched an evaluation of European fisheries statistics (covering statistics provided on catch, landings and aquaculture) which focuses on assessing the (i) relevance, (ii) effectiveness, (iii) efficiency, (iv) coherence, (v) statistical quality and (vi) EU added value of the collected statistics in the context of all data collected by the Commission and other international organisations.

This report covers only the statistics on landings collected by Eurostat and covered by Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006.

## 2. MAIN FINDINGS

### 2.1. Punctuality and completeness

#### 2.1.1. Punctuality

The punctuality of the data transmissions has improved over recent years, with most of the Member States sending the data on time. For the reference year 2016, data transmitted by half of the reporting Member States needed some corrections. These changes were provided within an acceptable time frame in most cases.

The Commission (Eurostat) releases the data immediately after they are validated, and all figures are available in the Eurostat public database one month after the transmission deadline. If necessary, data can be revised at any time.

#### 2.1.2. Completeness

The data completeness has improved since 2015. The mandatory unit prices of fishery products, which had previously posed problems, are now in most cases in place. Eurostat clarified the relevant reporting instructions at the 2015 Fisheries Statistics Expert Group meeting.

Data completeness has also improved thanks to measures taken by some Member States to significantly extend their survey coverage of vessel types, foreign vessels and species. Only three Member States claimed they did not collect data on landings from vessels less than 10 metres long.

### 2.2. Consistency

#### 2.2.1. Quality and accuracy

The overall quality of the data was good and one third of the Member States reported that the quality had improved since the last assessment report. Most Member States deemed both the non-response rate and under-coverage to be very low. A very limited number of Member States reported measurement or sampling errors, while possible misclassification was considered to have no impact on the data quality. In half of the reporting countries, landings

were cross-checked against catch statistics or other national data sources as part of a verification procedure.

### 2.2.2. Comparability

Reporting guidelines provided by Eurostat clarified the type of landings covered by the Regulation. Along with improving data completeness, they improved the data comparability among countries.

## 2.3. Relevance

The statistics on the volumes and prices of the fishery products landed on EU territory contribute to the Commission's commitments on market intelligence. The data are essential for following up and analysing the EU fishery product markets along the supply chain.

They could also be relevant in the context of the landing obligation[6] requiring all catches of regulated commercial species to be landed and counted against the relevant quota.

The Member States declared all user needs to be fully met at national level. Where national legislation exists, it covers all variables required in the EU Regulation.

## 2.4. Accessibility

### 2.4.1. Online database

Statistics on landings are available in the Commission's (Eurostat) public database[7] in detailed country tables, as well as in an overall summary table displaying EU and national data at a more aggregated level.

Half of the reporting Member States also publish the data at national level in online databases that users can access.

### 2.4.2. Publications and data tables

The Commission (Eurostat) publishes data and articles concerning statistics on landings in its online 'Statistics Explained' collection and in statistical books[8].

Half of the reporting countries produced electronic publications.

[6] Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC, Article 15.

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database (available only in English, French and German).

[8] The most recent is 'Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics' — 2017 edition, ISBN 978-92-79-75765-5 (available only in English).

### 2.4.3. Metadata

Every 3 years the Commission (Eurostat) collects national quality reports on which this report is based. The national reports include detailed information on the quality of the data and on the methods used to collect them. The national quality reports follow the European Statistical System (ESS) guidelines and are collected in the ESS Metadata Handler.

### 2.5. Data confidentiality

There are very few confidential variables in the statistics on landings transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat). In 2016, two Member States faced confidentiality issues due to the activity of a single fishing vessel in a given fishing area. As a result, the overall volume and value remained confidential for the EU total. However, the proportion of confidential data for the EU total was limited: for the year 2016, it represented only 1.5 % of the total number of values released for the EU-28 in the Commission's (Eurostat) public database.

## 3. BURDEN AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Half of the reporting Member States claimed that they made gains in efficiency since the last report. One third of them stated that they managed to reduce the burden on respondents by using more user-friendly questionnaires or easier data transmission methods.

The ESS carried out a burden and cost analysis of the process involved in collecting data to provide European statistics'. Some 17 Member States (out of 23 which report statistics on landings) sent figures regarding burden, which were expressed in full time equivalent (FTE). In addition, for the three Member States which could only provide a total figure for statistics on both fishery catch and landings, the burden for landings was estimated to account for roughly half of the total. The burden ranged from 0.01 to 11 FTE and was less than 0.25 FTE for half of those Member States who reported figures on burden.

Some 17 countries sent figures that included direct and indirect costs. For the two Member States which could not distinguish between costs for collecting data on catch and collecting data on landings, the cost was estimated to account for roughly half of the total. The average annual cost for collecting statistical data on national landings was approximately EUR 109 000 per country. If compared to the total value of landings, the total cost of collecting data on landings was 0.08 % of the total value of landings.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

In recent years statistics on landings have improved in terms of punctuality, completeness and consistency. Member States provide reliable information on the volume and value of fishery products landed in the EU and very useful detailed data at species level to be used for analysing the EU fish market.

Eurostat reporting guidelines have helped make the data on landings more consistent. In parallel, measures taken by national data providers resulted in a better completeness and punctuality.

The annual cost for producing statistical data on landings was on average EUR 109 000 per Member State. However, the average proportion of the costs for collecting statistical data on landings in the total economic value of landings was below 0.1 %.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

At national level countries should further encourage the use of electronic questionnaires, as it helps make the data collection more efficient.

A systematic procedure for cross-checking with other national data would ensure better data consistency. The automation of validation checks would also increase the reliability of the data.

The Commission (Eurostat) strives to constantly improve the quality and availability of European statistics. It is also committed to reducing the burden on Member States and respondents. To this end, it has included in its annual work programme 2018[9] a project on streamlining and simplifying statistics on fisheries. This project includes an evaluation of the statistics on fisheries (catches, landings and aquaculture) that Eurostat currently collect. The evaluation will be carried out in the overall context of fisheries data collected by other Commission DGs and international organisations. It will contribute to a strategy that aims to make fishery statistics collected by Eurostat fitter for purpose. The evaluation will be completed in the summer of 2019.

[9] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/-/annual-work-programme-2018 (available only in English).