



The EU Data Collection Framework

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The Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) gratefully acknowledges EU funding support.

The Aquaculture Advisory Council's Working group on Horizontal Issues has asked Dr Lorraine Gray from Marine Atlas Consultants Ltd, Scotland, to carry out a stock assessment of the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) with specific areas to address.

The work has now been finalized, and Dr Gray has submitted all deliverables, including the report 'EU Data Collection Framework—A stakeholder review'¹.

AAC recommendations

The AAC adopts the report and supports the following six recommendations for the DCF:

1. DG Mare should provide a number of enabling incentives to support Member States in reporting real-time data.

Maximum efficiency and effectiveness of an ongoing data collection scheme can only be achieved if the future data intended for use are up-to-date.

2. The scope of environmental and social data variables relevant for sustainable aquaculture should be consulted with the Aquaculture Advisory Council.

Data calls should not duplicate any other legislation. Indicators of sustainability can be well defined with the cooperation of the AAC, which will also allow a precise formulation of the objectives as well as prioritisation of the indicators to be collected or estimated.

In particular, indicators on animal welfare should be developed and included in the data collection.

3. Member States should make every effort to combine the questionnaires and make them available online.

Combining social data into economic surveys is becoming common practice, and the same approach should be encouraged for environmental data. An efficient use of online questionnaires for data transfer is essential for simple and fast collection and analysis.

¹ The report "EU Data Collection Framework—A stakeholder review" is accessible on the AAC's website: <https://aac-europe.org/en/recommendations/reports/299-eu-data-collection-framework-a-stakeholder-review>

4. STECF must make greater efforts to make the data collected more accessible to end users.

Full access to questionnaire results is imperative to promote buy-in from all end users.

5. A feasibility study should investigate the potential for farmers' associations to play an active role in collecting data.

Cooperation of the producers' associations is indispensable for several reasons:

- They are an end user—the link between detailed indicators (as proposed below) and data collection will be beneficial for prioritisation and implementation.
- To promote the legitimacy of analysis based on that data so that results are not disputed or discredited as being based on biased information.
- Data analysis should remain to be executed by organisations already involved in the compilation of statistical data.

6. Member States should publicise the EMFF funding contribution to data collection for aquaculture separately.

There is a legal requirement for publicising EMFF contributions to MS, but AAC members wish to see the divisions between the sectors published. Through consultation with relevant stakeholders and a review of the relevant best available science, the objectives are to compile all information available regarding data that are collected and compare and identify the differences within each EU Member State.



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