

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/909****of 18 February 2019****establishing the list of mandatory research surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular the first and third subparagraphs of Article 4(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(2)</sup>, the Member States are to collect biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data necessary for fisheries management. The multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (EU MAP) for the period 2017-2019 was adopted by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 <sup>(3)</sup> and will expire on 31 December 2019.
- (2) The multiannual Union programme is necessary for Member States to specify and plan their data collection activities in their national work plans. In accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(4)</sup> these national work plans are to be submitted to the Commission by 31 October preceding the year from which the work plan is to apply.
- (3) In order to prepare the review of the EU MAP after 2019, consultations with experts under the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries, regional coordination groups, Member State representatives and other relevant stakeholders are ongoing and will be finalised only at the end of 2019. As a result, the new EU-MAP taking into account the outcomes of these consultations cannot be adopted before 2021.
- (4) For the period from 2020 to 2021 it is, therefore, necessary to adopt the provisions on the list of mandatory research surveys at sea and thresholds below which it is not mandatory for Member States to collect data, included in the current EU MAP, on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.
- (5) This decision therefore establishes, in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, the list of mandatory research surveys at sea and thresholds below which it is not mandatory for Member States to collect data based on their fishing and aquaculture activities or carry out surveys at sea, as referred to in Article 5(1)(b) and (c) of that Regulation. Detailed arrangements on the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data by Member States, as referred to in Article 5(1)(a) of that Regulation, are provided for by Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/910 <sup>(5)</sup>.
- (6) For reasons of legal certainty, Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 should be repealed.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture,

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 157, 20.6.2017, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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 (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22).

<sup>(3)</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 of 12 July 2016 adopting a multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019 (OJ L 207, 1.8.2016, p. 113).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 149, 20.5.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(5)</sup> Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/910 of 13 March 2019 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (see page 27 of this Official Journal).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

For the purposes of multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2020-2021, the list of mandatory research surveys at sea and thresholds below which it is not mandatory for Member States to collect data based on their fishing and aquaculture activities or carry out surveys at sea covering the parts of the multiannual Union programme referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

*Article 2*

Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 is repealed with effect from 1 January 2020.

*Article 3*

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2020.

Done at Brussels, 18 February 2019.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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## ANNEX

## CHAPTER I

**Research surveys at sea**

At least all research surveys at sea listed in the Table in this Annex (replacing Table 10 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251) shall be carried out, unless a review of surveys leads to the conclusion that a survey is no longer appropriate for informing stock assessment and fisheries management. On the basis of the same scientific review criteria, new surveys can be added to this list.

In the workplans referred to in Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, Member States shall set out the research surveys at sea to be carried out and shall be responsible for these surveys.

Member States contributing to international research surveys shall coordinate their efforts within the same marine region.

In their national work plans Member States shall guarantee continuity with previous survey designs.

This Chapter is replacing Chapter IV of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251.

## CHAPTER II

**Thresholds**

- (1) This Chapter shall apply to Union fisheries and is replacing the provisions of Chapter V of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251.
- (2) No biological data have to be collected where, for a certain fish stock or species:
  - (a) a Member State's share of the related total allowable catch (TAC) is less than 10 % of the Union total, or
  - (b) where no TAC is fixed, the total landings of a Member State of a stock or species are less than 10 % of the average total EU landings in the previous 3 years, or
  - (c) the total annual landings of a Member State of a species is less than 200 tonnes. For species with a specific management need a lower threshold may be defined at marine region level.

When the sum of the relevant quotas of several Member States, whose share of a TAC is less than 10 %, is higher than 25 % of the share of the TAC for a certain stock, the 10 % threshold referred to under (a) shall not apply and Member States shall ensure task-sharing at regional level in order to ensure that the stock is covered by sampling in concordance with end-user needs.

No threshold shall apply to large pelagic species and anadromous and catadromous species.

- (3) Without prejudice to more specific provisions relating to international obligations under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, no biological data should to be collected where, for a certain internationally exploited fish stock other than stocks of large pelagic or highly migratory species, the Union's share is less than 10 %.
- (4) Member States shall provide catch estimates from existing recreational fishery surveys, including those carried out under the Data Collection Framework or from an additional pilot study, within two years from the date on which this Decision takes effect. These surveys make it possible to assess the share of catches from recreational fisheries in relation to commercial catches for all species in a marine region for which recreational catch estimates are required under this multiannual Union programme. The subsequent design and extent of national surveys of recreational fisheries, including any thresholds for data collection, shall be coordinated at marine region level and shall be based on end user needs.

No threshold shall apply to recreational catches of fish stocks that are subject to recovery or multi-annual management plans such as those applying to large pelagic species and highly migratory species.

- (5) No social and economic data on aquaculture need to be collected if the total production of the Member State is less than 1 % of the total Union production volume and value. No data need to be collected on aquaculture for species

accounting for less than 10 % of the Member State's aquaculture production by volume and value. Additionally, Member States with a total production of less than 2,5 % of the total Union aquaculture production volume and value may define a simplified methodology such as pilot studies with a view to extrapolate the data required for species accounting for more than 10 % of the Member States's aquaculture production by volume and value.

The reference data shall be the Member States' latest submission under Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(1)</sup> and corresponding data published by Eurostat.

- (6) No environmental data on aquaculture need to be collected where the total aquaculture production of the Member State is less than 2,5 % of the total Union aquaculture production volume and value.

The reference data shall be the Member States' latest submission under Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 and corresponding data published by Eurostat.

- (7) A Member State's participation (physical or financial) in research surveys at sea listed in the list of surveys at sea of this Annex is not mandatory when its share of a Union TAC of the survey target species is below a threshold of 3 %. Where no TAC is set, a Member State's participation (physical or financial) in research surveys at sea is not mandatory when its share of the total Union landings of the preceding 3 years of a stock or species is below a threshold of 3 %. Thresholds for multispecies and ecosystem surveys may be defined at marine region level.

- (8) Notwithstanding points 2 to 7, within the same marine region, Member States may agree on alternative thresholds.

#### List of research surveys at sea <sup>(1)</sup>

Name of the survey	Acronym	Area	Period	Main targeted species
<b>Baltic Sea</b>				
Baltic International Trawl Survey	BITS Q1 BITS Q4	IIIaS, IIIb-d	1st and 4th Quarter	Cod and other demersal species
Baltic International Acoustic Survey (Autumn)	BIAS	IIIa, IIIb-d	Sep-Oct	Herring and sprat
Gulf of Riga Acoustic Herring Survey	GRAHS	IIIId	3rd Quarter	Herring
Sprat Acoustic Survey	SPRAS	IIIId	May	Sprat and herring
Rügen Herring Larvae Survey	RHLS	IIIId	March-June	Herring
<b>North Sea and Eastern Arctic (ICES areas I and II)</b>				
International Bottom Trawl Survey	IBTS Q1 IBTS Q3	IIIa, IV	1st and 3rd Quarter	Haddock, Cod, Saithe, Herring, Sprat, Whiting, Mackerel, Norway pout.
North Sea Beam Trawl Survey	BTS	IVb, IVc, VIId	3rd Quarter	Plaice, Sole
Demersal Young Fish Survey	DYFS	Coasts of NS	3rd and 4th Quarter	Plaice, sole, brown shrimp
Sole Net Survey	SNS	IVb, IVc	3rd Quarter	Sole, Plaice
North Sea Sandeels Survey	NSSS	IVa, IVb	4th Quarter	Sandeels
International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas	ASH	IIa	May	Herring, Blue whiting

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 1).

Name of the survey	Acronym	Area	Period	Main targeted species
Redfish Survey in the Norwegian Sea and adjacent waters	REDNOR	II	August- September	Redfish
Mackerel egg Survey (Triennial)	NSMEGS	IV	May-July	Mackerel egg production
Herring Larvae survey	IHLS	IV,VIIId	1st and 3rd Quarter	Herring, Sprat Larvae
NS Herring Acoustic Survey	NHAS	IIIa, IV,VIa	June, July	Herring, Sprat
Nephrops TVsurvey (FU 3&4)	NTV3&4	IIIa	2nd or 3rd Quarter	Nephrops
Nephrops TVsurvey (FU 6)	NTV6	IVb	September	Nephrops
Nephrops TVsurvey (FU 7)	NTV7	IVa	2nd or 3rd Quarter	Nephrops
Nephrops TVsurvey (FU 8)	NTV8	IVb	2nd or 3rd Quarter	Nephrops
Nephrops TVsurvey (FU 9)	NTV9	IVa	2nd or 3rd Quarter	Nephrops

#### North Atlantic (ICES Areas V-XIV and NAFO areas)

International Redfish Trawl and Acoustic Survey (Biennial)	REDTAS	Va, XII, XIV; NAFO SA 1-3	June/July	Redfish
Flemish Cap Groundfish survey	FCGS	3M	July	Demersal species
Greenland Groundfish survey	GGs	XIV, NAFO SA1	October/November	Cod, redfish and other demersal species
3LNO Groundfish survey	PLATUXA	NAFO 3LNO	2nd and 3rd Quarter	Demersal species
Western IBTS 4th quarter (including Porcupine survey)	IBTS Q4	VIa, VII, VIII, IXa	4th Quarter	Demersal species
Scottish Western IBTS	IBTS Q1	VIa,VIIa	March	Gadoids, herring, mackerel
ISBCBTS September	ISBCBTS	VIIa f g	September	Sole, Plaice
WCBTS	VIIe BTS	VIIe	October	Sole, Plaice, Anglerfish, Lemon sole
Blue whiting survey		VI, VII	1st and 2nd Quarter	Blue whiting
International Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Survey (Triennial)	MEGS	VIa, VII,VIII, IXa	January-July	Mackerel, Horse Mackerel egg production
Sardine, Anchovy Horse Mackerel Acoustic Survey		VIII, IX	March-April-May	Sardine, Anchovy, Mackerel, Horse Mackerel abundance indices

Name of the survey	Acronym	Area	Period	Main targeted species
Sardine DEPM (Triennial)		VIIIc, IXa	2nd and 4th Quarter	Sardine SSB and use of CUFES
Spawning/Pre spawning Herring/Boarfish acoustic survey		VIa, VIIa-g	July, Sept, Nov, March, Jan	Herring, Sprat
Biomass of Anchovy	BIOMAN	VIII	May	Anchovy SSB (DEP)
Nephrops UWTV survey (offshore)	UWTV (FU 11-13)	VIa	2nd or 3rd Quarter	Nephrops
Nephrops UWTV Irish Sea	UWTV (FU 15)	VIIa	August	Nephrops
Nephrops UWTV survey Aran Grounds	UWTV (FU 17)	VIIb	June	Nephrops
Nephrops UWTV survey Celtic Sea	UWTV (FU 20-22)	VIIg,h,j	July	Nephrops
Nephrops Survey Offshore Portugal NepS	UWTV (FU 28-29)	IXa	June	Nephrops

#### Mediterranean waters and Black sea

Pan-Mediterranean Acoustic Survey ()	MEDIAS	GSA 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22	Spring-summer (qtrs 2-3)	Small pelagic species
Bottom trawl survey in Black Sea,	BTSBS	GSA 29	Spring - autumn (qtrs 2,3,4)	Turbot
Pelagic trawl survey in Black Sea,	PTSBS	GSA 29	Spring-autumn (qtrs 2,3,4)	Sprat and Whiting
International bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean (),	MEDITS	GSA 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25	Spring-summer (qtrs 2-3)	Demersal species

(<sup>1</sup>) The list of research surveys at sea is replacing Table 10 of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251.