

# RDBES Governance Update

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RCG Liaison Meeting Sept. 2019

# RDB/RDBES Governance issues raised at RCGs

- Funding
  - NCs to decide if they will contribute to the technical development, project management and dedicated workshops of the RDBES at
  - NCs to decide on which model to use for cost-sharing
- Work prioritisation
- Data Policy
  - Access to detailed data by preapproved ICES fisheries expert groups (EG)
- Data Confidentiality
- Stock Estimation Task Allocation



**Regional Coordination Group**  
Baltic Sea Region



**Regional Coordination Group**  
North Atlantic  
North Sea & Eastern Arctic

# Introduction

- RDB/RDBES governance function performed by a Steering Committee (SCRDB). Membership consists of:
  - a) Up to two representatives from each RCG that uploads data to the RDBES. RCGs that do not currently upload data but are intending to may also send one representative after approval from the Chair(s).
  - b) One representative from each ICES member country that wishes to attend.
  - c) Representatives from the ICES secretariat.
  - d) Representatives from the European Commission.
  - e) Chair invited guests.
  - f) Observers.
- The guidelines for the SCRDBES follow the “ICES guidelines for Expert Groups” but noting that:
  - Chair(s) will be appointed from the SCRDBES members in categories (a) and (b) above.
  - If voting is necessary then the members from categories (a) and (b) have a single vote per person, members from categories (c), (d), (e), and (f) cannot vote.
  - In the un-likely event that voting is necessary then it will be decided a simple majority of the category (a) and (b) members who are present at the meeting.

## • Funding of RDBES

- “(the) RDBES is the main prerequisite for development of regional sampling programmes, for standardisation of data, and the tool for ensuring transparency and quality assurance of input data for stock assessment in the North Eastern Atlantic area.” (SCRDB Report 2018)
- Funding for the hosting and maintenance of the current RDB and RDBES are annually budgeted through the Grant Agreement with the European Commission, the funding of development work for the RDBES is more precarious and ad hoc.
- Until now, the development funding for the RDBES has come from
  - i. a special request from the European Commission,
  - ii. through a request made to ICES’s own equity, and
  - iii. from ICES/EU member states via experts’ time, travel, and subsistence.
- The phase that the RDBES is now in is the most demanding in terms of resources – both within the ICES Secretariat and for the wider RCG community.

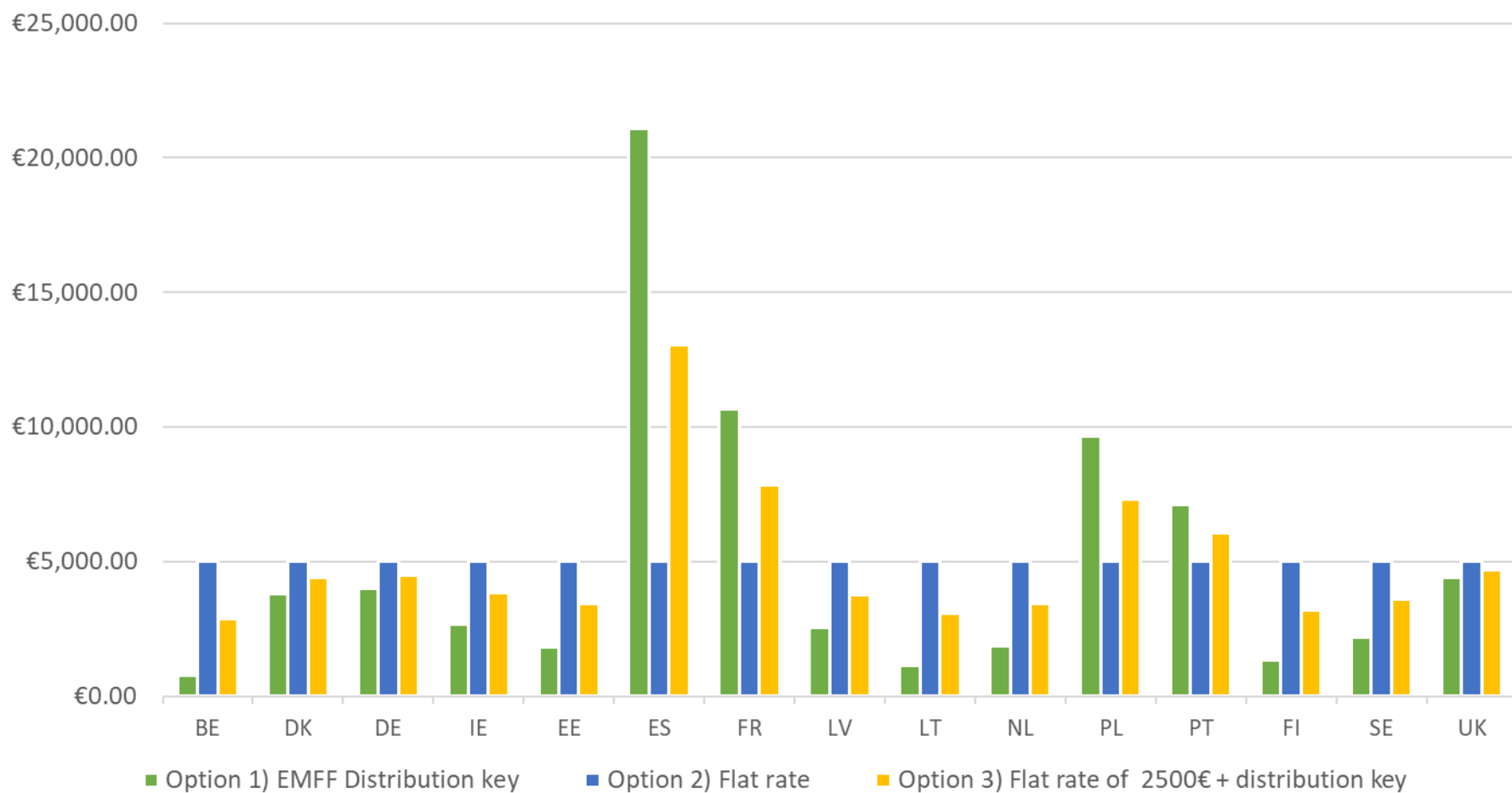
## • Funding of RDBES

- The total cost of annual development is estimated as **€145,000**
- The RCGs propose a time limited contribution of funds (**4 years at €75,000 per year = €300,000**) from EU member states supporting the RDBES through the RCG's – this will support RDBES development until the system is live and has completely replaced the current RDB and InterCatch systems.
- The data model, database script and any associated source code will be made available under a General Public Open Licence. This does not apply to data held within the RDBES, rights to which are governed by the RDB Data Policy.

# Funding of RDBES

	(EUR)	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total (EUR)
		@41% of total cost of annual development				
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>Technical Development</b>  Technical development, including software and database, Web Interface and Security, interface to GitHub including versioning, data exchange both ways, results check, quality checks, download of data,  <b>Project and Data Management</b>  Overseeing user requirements and use cases, Project tracking and resource deployment, data and reference code management	60 000	60 000	60 000	60 000	<b>240 000</b>
<b>Meetings, Travel, Training</b>	Dedicated RDBES workshops/support aimed at developing specific functionality, or building capacity/training in the data provider/data users of the RDBES	15 000	15 000	15 000	15 000	<b>60 000</b>
<b>Total RCG Contribution</b>		<b>75 000</b>	<b>75 000</b>	<b>75 000</b>	<b>75 000</b>	<b>300 000</b>

# Funding of RDBES



## • RDBES development prioritisation

- The two top priorities for development are:
  - To ensure that data can be made available for the coordination of regional fisheries data sampling plans for the North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic, and Baltic RCGs,
  - To provide ICES with a regional estimation system such that statistical estimates for stock assessment can be produced from detailed sample data in a transparent manner.
- There are also a number of other areas that the RDBES could be used for including:
  - Bycatch and PETS data
  - Large Pelagic RCG data,
  - Recreational data for the RCGs and ICES,
  - Diadromous data for the RCGS and ICES.
- The development of these, and any further areas identified, will be reviewed and prioritised by the SCRDB taking into account the progress made on the two highest priorities and the resources available.



## Data Policy – Access to Detailed Data

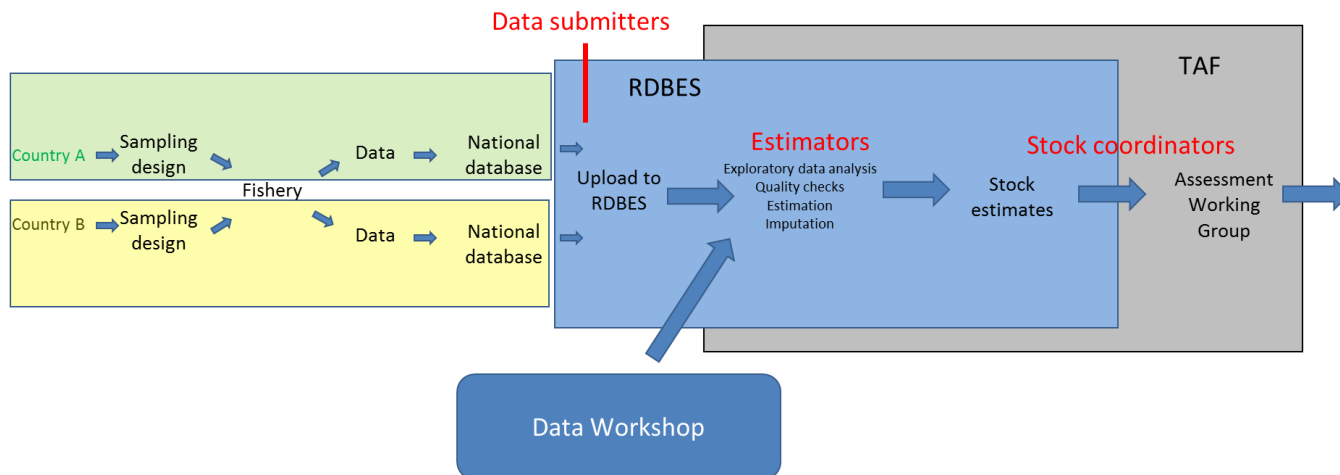
- The RCG NA NSEA recommends that the RDB/RDBES data policy is reviewed with respect to the access to detailed data by pre-approved ICES fisheries expert groups (EG).
- Under the RDB/RDBES Data policy landings (CL) and effort data (CE) are considered aggregated data, whilst sample data (CS) are considered detailed data
- Currently every pre-approved EG has access to aggregated data but has to request access to detailed data from all relevant countries' National Correspondents (or ACOM member for non-EU countries). This is burdensome both to the EG and to the MS, and can cause delays in the availability of RDB data for those EG.
- In 2018 the National Correspondents at the RCG Baltic 2018 agreed to grant ICES expert groups and related benchmark groups providing advice to fisheries management access to detailed data for the sub-division 22-32 (Baltic Sea) stored in the RDBES (RCG Baltic 2018-A7 - RDB Data Policy #2).
- The SCRDB will draft a revision to the RDB/RDBES Data Policy which would improve the system for giving access to detailed data to pre-approved EGs during their 2019 meeting and then present it for discussion, review, and agreement during the 2020 RCG meetings.

# Data Confidentiality

- If more expert groups (EGs) make use of RDB/RDBES data then we need to ensure their use of it respects the Data Policy
- It is recommended that the SCRDB writes a standard “RDB/RDBES Data confidentiality document” which will remind people of the RDB/RDBES Data Policy and their obligations under it.
- For the existing RDB and forthcoming RDBES
  - It is recommended that the Chair of the EG will have all participants with access to the data sign a standard “RDB/RDBES Data confidentiality document”, which will be scanned and uploaded on the EG’s SharePoint site in the Data folder.
- For the forthcoming RDBES
  - if the data is downloaded via an RDBES web application then a pop- up window is shown where the user is required to tick a box to say they have read and understood the RDB/RDBES Data Policy.
- It should be noted that security permissions for the new RDBES will be more granular than those of the existing RDB so that users can more easily just be given access to the data they actually require.

# Stock Estimation Task Allocation

- The RDBES will replace the RDB and InterCatch, and the intention is to ensure it is integrated with the new ICES Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF).
- Before estimates for a stock are produced using the RDBES there must be a Data Workshop – this can either be a Stock Compilation Workshop as part of a benchmark or a multi-stock RDBES Data Workshop.
- This will require the countries that are relevant for that stock to upload data in the new RDBES format. The experts at the workshop will then look at the data and the existing national estimation techniques to agree on the stock estimation techniques that should be used.
- It must also be decided who will be responsible for performing the stock estimation.



# Stock Estimation Task Allocation

- It is a requirement of the RDBES stock estimation that a stock estimate is produced, as well as national estimates for that stock – *however national estimates for a country do not necessarily have to be produced by a user from that country.*
- The following RDBES user roles are relevant for producing stock estimates within the RDBES (note that a single person can hold multiple roles at the same time):
  - **Data viewer:** Can view and export data and estimation scripts for the specific stock area.
  - **Estimator:** Can create and run scripts to create national stock estimates for a specific country and stock area.
  - **Stock coordinator:** Can create and run scripts to produce stock estimates for a specific stock.
- 4 models of how the user roles could be allocate to different people during RDBES stock estimation were identified. They use a simple example where only 4 countries contribute data to a stock estimation (Country 1 – 4).
- A decision process for how to pick which model to use was drafted.

# Stock Estimation Task Allocation

Model 1

	Roles		
	Data Viewer	Estimator	Stock coordinator
Countries	<i>View data, scripts, and estimates</i>	<i>Create the national estimates</i>	<i>Create stock estimate</i>
Country 1	Person 1	Person 3	
Country 2	Person 2		
Country 3	Person 3		
Country 4	Person 4		

Model 4

	Roles		
	Data Viewer	Estimator	Stock coordinator
Countries	<i>View data and view estimations</i>	<i>Perform the estimation</i>	<i>View/check all data and combine all national estimates into the stock estimate and export it</i>
Country 1	Person 1	Person 1	Person 5
Country 2	Person 2	Person 2	
Country 3	Person 3	Person 3	
Country 4	Person 4	Person 4	

## Conclusion

- Making full use of RDB/RDBES data for the RCGs and stock assessment has a number of governance challenges that have been identified so far.
- It is likely that more questions will be raised as we continue with the process.
- It will be vital to ensure MS continue to have a voice in all of these discussions and are happy with the decisions – it is their data

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