

9th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Held virtually, 27 September to 2 October 2021

SC9-WP04

DW Checklist for Scientific Survey

Scientific Committee Considerations Scientific Survey Plans

8. The Scientific Committee shall provide recommendations and advice to the Commission on each Scientific Survey Operation Plan on the following matters, as appropriate:

Survey Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<i>a) management strategies or plans for fishery resources; [Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean as having a clear objective for the fishery]</i>	Main objective of the survey is detailed in section 3 of the proposal. Please refer to this text	Yes
<i>b) reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;</i>	Estimates total tonnes caught during the verification hauls (~18t – 90t, capped at 200t) are estimated well below recent bycatch levels, table 1	Yes
<i>c) an appropriate precautionary catch limit;</i>	Section 5 describes survey approach, estimated size of verification hauls and total limit set to 200t.	Yes
<i>d) the cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the scientific survey;</i>	Yes, detailed Risk Assessment conducted, section 6	Yes
<i>e) the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;</i>	Marine mammals, seabirds, VMEs, Elasmobranchs and finfish gear estimated, section 6.	Yes
<i>f) the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;</i>	Detailed Risk Assessment document is available within the proposal, section 6	Yes
<i>g) the degree to which the approach outlined in the Survey Operation Plan is likely to ensure the survey is developed consistently with its nature as a survey, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention¹; and</i>	The precautionary limits and mitigations put in place should ensure this at the offset. Vessel presence using acoustic detection is considered not to have a negative impact on the environment while impact of survey verification hauls is minimized to the largest extent possible while maintaining its purpose	Highly likely
<i>h) in respect of a Survey Operation Plan that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 20 (b) of CMM 03-2020 (Bottom Fishing)².</i>	Not applicable	Yes

¹ The objective of this Convention is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

² The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the Commission on:

Data Collection Plans

9. When considering a Survey Operation Plan [...] the Scientific Committee shall develop a Data Collection Plan in respect of that survey which should include research requirements, as appropriate. The Data Collection Plan shall identify and describe the data needed and any operational research actions necessary to obtain data from the survey to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activity on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs. The Scientific Committee shall review and update the Data Collection Plan for each scientific survey annually as appropriate.

10. The Data Collection Plan shall require, as appropriate:

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale	Assessment
a) a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 24;	Please see proposal section 4 and 5, detailing survey aim, geographical location, effort and associated estimated verification haul sizes	Yes
b) the dates by which the data must be provided to the Commission;	Meet required deadlines by the flag state (Poland-EU) as well as SPRFMO, as stated in section 8	Yes
c) a plan for directing fishing effort in a survey to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impact;	Please see proposal section 4 and 5, survey area and survey approach	Yes
d) where appropriate, a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by survey vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts; and	The acoustic survey has a specific focus on Alfoniso and red baitfish. Scientific observers are on-board and will examine verification haul contents and where possible observations on non-target species outside of the verification haul operation	Yes
e) an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to survey activities [Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean “when will data be analysed and available”]	Proponents will undertake analyses of first survey within six months of completion, and submit this to Poland-EU	Yes

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- i. whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
 - ii. whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.