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Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics and repealing Regulations (EC)
No 1921/2006, (EC) No 762/2008, (EC) No 216/2009, (EC) No 217/2009 and (EC)
No 218/2009**

(Text with EEA relevance)

{SEC(2025) 224 final} - {SWD(2025) 232 final} - {SWD(2025) 233 final}

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

- Reasons for and objectives of the proposal**

Since the inception of the European Economic Community in the 1950s, Eurostat has provided European fisheries statistics¹ on fish catches, landings, Union fishing fleet and aquaculture, which are necessary for the EU's activities. These statistics are currently covered by five legal acts dating back to the 1990s with recasts in the 2000s². The regulations lay down, among other things, the statistical variables, the fishing areas covered³, reference periods, transmission deadlines and statistical quality criteria.

Relevant, reliable, comprehensive and timely official European statistics are necessary to design, implement, monitor and evaluate European Union policies related to fisheries. Those statistics are needed, in particular, for: (i) conservation of marine biological resources' policies; (ii) the common fisheries policy (CFP)⁴, including aquaculture; (iii) and EU policies and legislation on, for example, the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, regions, public health, food safety and the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals. Those statistics are also used for monitoring the impact of fisheries on sensitive species and habitats, and of aquaculture on water quality.

European fisheries statistics serve as a basis for other data collections, such as the data collection framework (DCF)⁵, and are relevant for sustainable food production, especially in the context of the European Green Deal.

¹ Please note that, for the evaluation and impact assessment, the term 'fishery' was used. However, in order to be aligned with the common fisheries policy, the term 'fisheries' is used.

² 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1921/oj>; 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/762/oj>; Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic (recast), OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/216/oj>; Regulation (EC) No 217/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of catch and activity statistics by Member States fishing in the north-west Atlantic (recast), OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 42, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/217/oj>; Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic (recast), OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 70, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/218/oj>.

³ The European fisheries statistics catch regulations currently cover seven FAO fishing areas near the EU: 21 – Northwest Atlantic, 27 – Northeast Atlantic, 34 – East-Central Atlantic, 37 – Mediterranean and Black Sea, 41 – Southwest Atlantic, 47 – Southeast Atlantic, and 51 – West Indian Ocean.

⁴ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj>.

⁵ 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

In recent years, the CFP reforms and new EU initiatives have generated new data demands. Additionally, the number of administrative and other data sources for compiling fisheries statistics has grown. There are also overlaps between fisheries data flows from EU Member States to different departments of the European Commission, and to various international organisations. A new legal act is needed to overcome these challenges.

The Commission proposal for a regulation on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics (EFAS) aims to improve their relevance by more effectively meeting user needs. EFAS: (i) expands the statistical coverage, for example, on organic aquaculture and EU aquaculture establishments; (ii) reduces the volume of confidential data; and (iii) addresses quality issues in the reported data. In addition, in line with the EU priority on simplification, EFAS replaces five existing regulations with a single one, and reduces the administrative burden on Member States.

A key innovative aspect of EFAS is the use of existing databases, set up by EU law and available to the Commission, to produce official European statistics on catches and Union fishing fleet, thus reducing the administrative burden on the Member States. This approach also enables new statistics to be produced on discards, on recreational fisheries and on the impact of catches on sensitive species, without imposing an additional burden on respondents.

In addition, EFAS has been designed to take into account the data requirements of key international organisations, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as regional fisheries management organisations. The proposal enables Eurostat to transmit the data on behalf of Member States to these organisations, thereby reducing duplication of effort and alleviating the administrative burden associated with multiple reporting obligations.

The initiative is part of the REFIT programme⁶ and aims to improve the performance of the underlying legislation while reducing the related burdens and costs. The estimated total cost of producing European fishery statistics is around EUR 5.6 million per year for the 27 EU Member States and the European Commission, of which approximately 5% are incurred by the European Commission. The legislative proposal is estimated to reduce the costs for collecting data on catches by EUR 1.2 million annually.

- **Consistency with existing provisions in the policy area**

As the statistical office of the European Union, Eurostat is the producer of official European fisheries and aquaculture statistics on catches, landings, fishing fleet, and aquaculture production.

Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast); OJ L 157, 20.6.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1004/oj>.

⁶ REFIT - The European Commission's regulatory fitness and performance programme aims to ensure that EU laws deliver on their objectives at a minimum cost for the benefit of individuals and businesses.

EFAS is linked with other legal acts, such as the CFP Regulation, Control Regulation⁷, which was recently amended⁸, the DCF⁹, the Union fleet register¹⁰ and the Regulation on organic production¹¹. The concepts and definitions used in the proposal are consistent with those of the legal acts mentioned above, which ensures a cohesive and comprehensive legal framework for fisheries and aquaculture statistics and EU policies in this domain. It is crucial that this new legislative proposal adheres closely to the definitions and methodologies outlined in the Control Regulation to maintain consistency and precision.

The CFP regulates the fisheries sector in the EU by creating a framework that: (i) gives direction to the sector; (ii) lays out the rules for managing the Union fishing fleet; and (iii) strives to ensure the long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability of European fisheries. To fulfil these tasks, the fisheries authorities of EU Member States are obligated to collect data related to fisheries control that cover the entire production and distribution chain (e.g. catch, landing, transport and first sales, as well as data on fishing effort, vessel characteristics, fishing licences, etc.). The main data sources include logbooks, landing declarations, transport documents, sales notes, inspection reports, and vessel-monitoring system records. Data on catches and the Union fishing fleet are transmitted to the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). Additional data, e.g. for scientific and environmental monitoring and supporting the CFP, are governed by the DCF and are transmitted to the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. All these data, collected under EU legislation and made available to the Commission, have the potential to be reused to compile official European statistics, thereby implementing the principle of 'collect once, use several times'.

Eurostat also provides European fisheries statistics to the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA)¹², a service set up by DG MARE to provide weekly, monthly and yearly market information to the fisheries sector to improve production planning and increase production. Furthermore, Eurostat provides European fisheries statistics to the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)¹³, a long-term, marine data initiative funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. EMODnet uses data on

⁷ Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006, OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj>.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006 and (EC) No 1005/2008 and Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2017/2403 and (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control, OJ L, 2023/2842, 20.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj>.

⁹ 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 (recast), OJ L 157, 20.06.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1004/oj>.

¹⁰ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218 of 6 February 2017 on the Union fishing fleet register, OJ L 34, 9.2.2017, p. 9, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2017/218/oj.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>.

¹² <https://www.eumofa.eu/>.

¹³ <https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en>.

catches, landings and aquaculture and presents them coherently and comparably through its online visualisation portal¹⁴.

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

Fisheries statistics support EU trade policy, economic analysis and environmental policy. European fisheries statistics are a relevant data source for the needs of: (i) professional users, such as research institutions, national, regional and international fisheries organisations; and (ii) data redistributors, who use European fisheries statistics as a reference or a validation source for their own statistics, and for purposes like market monitoring and analysis in the context of EUMOFA.

To boost competitiveness and safeguard economic, social and environmental goals, the European Commission aims to reduce regulatory burdens and simplify EU laws. Statistics play a crucial role in policy making and monitoring, aligning with the Commission's overarching objective of reducing burdens. High-quality statistics inform policy decisions by helping the European Commission identify areas where burden reduction can be most impactful. They also highlight opportunities to streamline processes, support simplification, and estimate the economic and social impacts of regulations. Furthermore, statistics aid in assessing the effectiveness of regulations, enabling the Commission to refine or repeal those that are unnecessary or excessively burdensome, aligning with the goals of this initiative.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

- **Legal basis**

Article 338 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (the Treaty)¹⁵ outlines the EU's competence to adopt measures for the production of statistics where necessary for the performance of its activities.

Official European statistics are essential for the accurate and independent monitoring of the CFP, a policy area where the EU has exclusive competence for conserving marine biological resources (Article 3(d) of the Treaty) and the power to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities (Article 43(3) of the Treaty). Such statistics are crucial for ensuring the fair, efficient and effective management and allocation of fishery resources, and for supporting informed decision-making across Member States.

- **Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)**

Fisheries are a natural, renewable and movable source of food. In the EU, they are governed by a common policy, the CFP, with common rules adopted at EU level and applied in all Member States. The primary objectives of the CFP are to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture from an environmental, economic and social perspective, while providing a stable source of healthy and nutritious food for Europeans.

A common fisheries policy must inherently be based on comparable, timely and high-quality official European statistics, which can be ensured only by action at EU level. This cannot be achieved by the Member States acting in isolation, but only by a common and coordinated approach. European fisheries and aquaculture statistics legislation provides an EU-wide

¹⁴ <https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/geoviewer/>.

¹⁵ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 47, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2012/oj.

framework for collecting data and supplying fisheries and aquaculture statistics using concepts and definitions that are harmonised across all Member States. It imposes common standards and methodologies that not only produce comparable results needed by the CFP and other EU policies for management and analysis purposes, but also improve efficiency, timeliness and reliability.

In addition, the existence of an EU legal framework ensures quality-control mechanisms and the availability of metadata. For these reasons, national providers of European fisheries statistics and institutional stakeholders have stressed the importance of an EU-wide legal basis.

- **Proportionality**

Section 8 of the impact assessment accompanying this proposal discusses proportionality. The chosen instrument – a new, streamlined legal framework for European fisheries statistics – is a proportional response to achieve the objectives and solve the problems outlined above. It was necessary because it provides a better and more flexible way of meeting user needs than a less comprehensive legislative and organisational reform of European fisheries statistics would have done. Moreover, the new streamlined legal framework for European fisheries statistics will not go beyond what is necessary to modernise the data collections for catches, landings, the Union fishing fleet and aquaculture.

- **Choice of the instrument**

The chosen instrument is a new regulation that sets up a streamlined legal framework for European fisheries and aquaculture statistics. This option is preferable to a directive or to non-binding instruments because high-quality official European statistics that are comparable across Member States inherently require technical aspects and quality provisions, for example, to be aligned. A regulation that includes implementing and delegated provisions directly applicable in the Member States is essential to ensure that these requirements are met. This approach guarantees comparability between Member States while allowing them the flexibility to choose their data sources, as long as those sources meet the quality criteria outlined in the proposed regulation.

3. RESULTS OF *EX POST* EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- ***Ex post* evaluations/fitness checks of existing legislation**

The current system of European fisheries statistics was evaluated in 2019¹⁶. The main conclusion of the evaluation was that European fisheries statistics are an important independent and high-quality source of information, serving several types of user needs linked to fisheries management, market monitoring and research. The internal consistency of European fisheries statistics is good and their production costs are low because, in most Member States, statistics on catches, landings and aquaculture are compiled using administrative data collected for policy purposes. European fisheries statistics have been **effective** in so far as they are used intensively for market monitoring purposes and are useful for international organisations such as the FAO.

At the same time, the evaluation acknowledged that information demands have changed, in particular, due to the 2013 CFP reform. In addition, the evaluation showed that, in the

¹⁶ Evaluation of the European Fishery Statistics, [SWD\(2019\) 425](#).

aquaculture sector, some data are collected but are not disseminated for confidentiality reasons, because the sector has a limited number of very specialised companies. Moreover, the evaluation confirmed that EU and global fisheries data systems give rise to inefficiencies by requiring each country to report overlapping but slightly different datasets to several organisations.

An analysis of whether European fisheries statistics are consistent with the Control Regulation data revealed some persistent discrepancies. While these remain small overall, they are significant in Mediterranean countries where the fishing fleet is composed of a large number of small vessels.

In conclusion, the evaluation found that the CFP requires good-quality fisheries statistics that are independent and fit for purpose, serve a wide range of user needs and fit well into the overall international fisheries data ecosystem.

- **Stakeholder consultations**

The main categories of stakeholders of European fisheries statistics are:

- **data providers**, i.e. fishers, aquaculture producers, etc., that provide fisheries data either as administrative data (e.g. from logbooks and landing declarations) or in surveys and censuses;
- **data producers**, i.e. national statistical institutes and other national authorities that collect and process fisheries data, and compile official statistics and transmit them to Eurostat and other organisations;
- **data users:**
 - *institutional users* are the ones that are directly involved in EU policymaking at EU, international and national levels, as well as national research institutes linked to the DCF;
 - *redistributors* of official European fisheries and aquaculture statistics that publicly share information and knowledge products based on European fisheries statistics. EMODnet and EUMOFA are identified as redistributors. At international level, the FAO, OECD and the World Trade Organisation are institutional users and, at the same time, redistributors;
 - *other professional users* that contribute directly or indirectly to the policymaking process at EU level and add value to European fisheries statistics, for example, with scientific or socio-economic analyses. They include EU professional fisheries organisations, advisory councils, NGOs with marine programmes, sea conventions, specialised fisheries media, universities, research institutes, national fisheries organisations, private sector aquaculture organisations and individual private companies;
 - *the general public and the media* have only a relatively low interest in fisheries statistics and very limited influence.

Accordingly, the European fisheries statistics consultation strategy focused on reaching these stakeholder groups and conducted a large range of consultation activities between 2018 and 2020. These included:

- a *workshop* with Member States on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of European fisheries statistics from national statistical institutes' point of view;
- 16 in-depth *interviews* with key stakeholders, for example policymakers and contributors to the CFP, on their use, needs and expectations of European fisheries statistics. The key stakeholders were redistributors (i.e. organisations that redistribute European fisheries statistics through their own databases and add information from other countries or areas) and regular professional users (organisations that need European fisheries statistics to carry out their main professional activities);
- six national *case studies* and one cross-country aquaculture case study to provide overviews and detailed analyses of different data collection and collaboration approaches. The purpose of the case studies was to provide an overview of national set-ups for collecting European fisheries statistics and to analyse them in a more detailed manner. They also served as a basis for understanding how various collaborations on fisheries-related data are organised in Member States and how organisations cooperate. In addition, the case studies aimed to analyse how national data users use European fisheries statistics and to assess whether European fisheries statistics are meeting their needs from a national perspective. The national case studies took place in Denmark, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy and Poland. In addition, the supporting cross-cutting case study on aquaculture, which focused in particular on the data confidentiality issue, covered the above-mentioned countries, as well as Germany;
- an *online survey* was carried out as a targeted expert-oriented consultation with general and specific questions about European fisheries statistics: their utility, ease of use, cost of collection, statistical quality, efficiency, effectiveness and consistency. 135 organisations or individuals out of 353 contacted responded. Responses were received from 33 of 36 countries contacted (including Member States, EEA countries, candidate and potential candidate countries);
- a *public consultation* to gather information from professional users, individuals and other stakeholders on their experiences with European fisheries statistics. 24 respondents answered the questionnaire.

As the European fisheries statistics impact assessment followed immediately after the evaluation, it reused much of the evidence gathered for the evaluation. Additionally, in 2019-2020, it organised specific consultations of the general public, experts (data users) and data producers.

- The *consultation of the general public*: (i) focused on whether European fisheries statistics meet respondents' needs; and (ii) allowed respondents to comment on and rank the objectives and possible options of the impact assessment, and give feedback on the options' potential impacts. It received 15 responses, with a new streamlined legal framework emerging as the preferred option.
- The *consultation of experts* focused on data needs and received 35 responses. The respondents gave detailed responses on: (i) their data needs for catches, landings and aquaculture; (ii) their preferences regarding the frequency and timeliness of the data; and (iii) the purposes for which they use European fisheries statistics (e.g. market and traceability analyses).

- The *consultation of data producers* took place during the annual meeting of the Directors' Group on Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (DGAS). It was attended by all Member States and EEA countries, as well as by some candidate and potential candidate countries. The objective was to brainstorm the potential impacts of the draft options, propose other options, rank the options and contribute to the impact assessment.

After the evaluation and the impact assessment, consultation continued with the following activities:

- several *structured meetings*, which took place in 2022 and 2023 with institutional personnel, sector organisations, Member State representatives, private producers, sectorial organisations and scientists;
- several Eurostat fisheries statistics *working group meetings* and one dedicated DGAS meeting, which took place in 2022 and 2023, were pivotal for selecting the most fit-for-purpose option among the different technical approaches and for fine-tuning methodological procedures. Among others, representatives of the United Nations Global Compact¹⁷ and the European Algae Biomass Association¹⁸ participated in these meetings.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

The Commission collected and used the various forms of outside expertise highlighted in the 'stakeholder consultations' section above in order to shape and develop the European fisheries statistics legislation. A crucial role was played by national statistical institutes, which contributed with their expertise by participating actively in regular domain-specific working groups, task forces, and DGAS. These meetings facilitated extensive discussions and exchanges of views.

- **Impact assessment**

An impact assessment for European fisheries statistics was conducted in 2021 and received a positive opinion from the Regulatory Scrutiny Board on 4 June 2021¹⁹. These documents will be published together with the legal proposal and are available upon request until then.

To achieve the objectives of the proposed Regulation, four options were considered.

1. The baseline scenario; i.e. the continuation of the current European fisheries statistics.
2. The discontinuation of European fisheries statistics.
3. A new, streamlined legal framework for European fisheries statistics.
4. A new legal basis for aquaculture and the compilation of available fisheries statistics from EU-level administrative sources; i.e. a hybrid option between options 2 and 3, in which landing statistics would be discontinued.

In light of the impact assessment, the results of the consultation activities and discussions with stakeholders, the preferred option was option 3; i.e. **a new streamlined legal framework for**

¹⁷ <https://unglobalcompact.org/>.

¹⁸ <https://www.eaba-association.org/en>.

¹⁹ Regulatory Scrutiny Board Opinion of 04/06/2021, ARES(2021)3681988.

European fisheries statistics. The preferred option was supported by the main data users: the European Commission departments, the OECD, the FAO, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, several regional fisheries management organisations, a large majority of the national statistical authorities responsible for fisheries statistics in the European statistical system (ESS) and a majority of the respondents to the consultations.

This option responds best to the objectives of the REFIT programme by simplifying and streamlining the five legal acts currently governing European fisheries statistics into one coherent legal framework. The preferred option allows statistical requirements to be aligned flexibly with evolving user needs related to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CFP and related EU policies. It also replaces the current partly uncoordinated and duplicated approaches with a coherent Commission-wide strategy and a renewed architecture for European fisheries and aquaculture statistics. This is important for efficient policy delivery and resource use.

Moreover, the option will lead to the reduction of costs and burdens in several ways. Firstly, it will cut double data collection for catch statistics, as the data may be taken directly from EU-level administrative sources. This reduces the administrative and data collection costs and also the time expenditure for respondents, i.e. fishers. Secondly, EFAS is aligned with the needs of the FAO, the OECD and regional fisheries' management organisations. This will give Member States the option of allowing Eurostat to transmit data, on their behalf and upon their agreement, to those organisations and will, thus, reduce multiple reporting obligations. Thirdly, more data will become available to data users once the data structure for aquaculture has been simplified, resulting in less data being confidential. Fourthly, the simplification of the data reporting mechanisms will ease the burden on data providers and data producers.

The preferred option is expected to make European fisheries statistics more relevant, as the new legal framework would be updated to reflect new user needs, such as:

- total catches, including discards and recreational fisheries, with information on sensitive species;
- landings of the Union fishing fleet globally and those of third country vessels in EU ports;
- organic and regional dimensions of aquaculture.

There is a growing need for more detailed and timely European statistics to support the implementation of various Commission initiatives, including the action plans for organic production, sustainable aquaculture, a sustainable blue economy, algae sector development, energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture and marine ecosystem protection.

European fisheries statistics would become more effective, as they would still provide the existing **benefits** (e.g. being a one-stop shop for high-quality, comparable fisheries and aquaculture statistics with long time series that are accessible to all), as well as a simpler and more streamlined legal framework that can better integrate and serve new user needs. Reducing double reporting by aligning definitions and reorganising data flows would also reduce discrepancies between different data sources and therefore increase the reliability, accuracy and international comparability of European fisheries statistics.

The main direct **costs** for stakeholders relate to adapting the statistical and technical systems in the ESS. These adaptation costs are expected to be marginal. Owing to more efficient data use and simplified data flows, the new legal basis for European fisheries statistics is expected to lead in the mid to long term to cost savings of approximately EUR 1.2 million annually

(based on an estimated total cost of producing European fisheries statistics of about EUR 5.6 million per year for the 27 Member States and the European Commission). The national statistical authorities should benefit from these cost savings, as a part of the European fisheries statistics would be compiled directly on the basis of EU-level administrative data for the CFP, and multiple data flows would be simplified into a single one encompassing EU-level and international needs.

This initiative's **impact on SMEs and competitiveness** is marginal, as most companies in the fisheries and aquaculture sector are small or medium-sized companies that already need to transmit the data for administrative purposes. Furthermore, most of the statistics are produced from these existing datasets. Micro-SMEs with fewer than 10 employees cannot be excluded from having to collect European fisheries statistics data because most EU fishing vessels have crews with fewer than 10 members. However, the impacts on them are marginal.

Statistical regulations have a **direct impact** on the resources needed to fulfil the legislative requirements of European fisheries statistics, such as the management and time/inputs required by data providers, data producers and Eurostat. They are relatively limited, as the regulations primarily affect a narrow group of data providers that need to provide the administrative data anyway, and a small number of organisations responsible for producing statistics, such as national statistical authorities. As regulations are directly applicable in Member States, the activities triggered by their implementation, such as the collection, processing and validation of statistics by the countries and Eurostat constitute impacts that have a cost in terms of resources. However, the costs are limited, as the ESS already produces fisheries statistics and only adjustments are required.

European fisheries statistics have far-reaching, **indirect impacts** on areas like policy management and marine resource conservation, as they facilitate evidence-based policy design, implementation, and monitoring by providing high-quality, comparable data across countries. However, these impacts are challenging to envisage and quantify, as it is difficult to forecast how policymakers and other users will utilise the statistics and the weight they will assign to them in the decision-making process.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

REFIT cost-savings of the preferred option:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Catch data: reduction of burden and costs by eliminating double data reporting for catches.	Annual savings for direct costs linked to catch data estimated to be approximately EUR 1.2 million when compared to baseline.	<p>It is planned to produce catch statistics from EU-level administrative data sources. Member States would no longer need to transmit catch statistics.</p> <p>Direct and indirect cost-savings to data producers (national statistical institutes and other national authorities). The cost-savings are based on the figures provided by the Member States, and they stem mostly from direct and indirect personnel costs and survey costs.</p> <p>In the long term, the change is estimated</p>

		to be cost-neutral to the Commission.
Reuse of the European fisheries statistics by international organisations.	Reduction in burden at Member State and international organisation level, owing to the elimination of several transmission and validation activities.	Data producers (national statistical institutes and other national authorities) and data users (international organisations) benefit from simplified data flows; 'collect once, use several times'.
Improving effectiveness: reduction of confidential data.	More data would be accessible to data users at the same cost as before.	By simplifying the data structure, more data would become available to users at the same cost and burden on data providers and data producers.

For the reasons described above, the direct economic, social and environmental impacts of the production of official statistics are limited.

- **Fundamental rights**

The proposal has no consequences for the protection of fundamental rights.

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The estimated total cost of producing European fisheries statistics is about EUR 5.6 million per year for the Member States and the European Commission, of which approximately 5% are incurred by the European Commission. The estimated annual cost-savings for catch data are EUR 1.2 million, i.e. 21% of total costs.

These costs represent 0.05% of the annual value of EU fisheries and aquaculture production, which is very low. The reason for this low cost is the widespread use of available administrative data as source data for catch, landings and fleet statistics.

Member States pay production costs for European fisheries statistics from their budgets, as the national statistical institutes must fulfil EU legal obligations for these statistics and also regularly adapt their systems to new or updated regulations.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

- **Implementation plans and monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements**

As European fisheries statistics are statistical regulations that are directly applicable in EU Member States, no special support or implementation plan is needed.

- **Explanatory documents (for directives)**

No explanatory documents are needed.

- **Detailed explanation of the specific provisions of the proposal**

This legal proposal sets up an integrated framework for aggregated European fisheries and aquaculture statistics related to: (i) the extraction of marine biological resources by fishing activities and their entry into the market; (ii) the structure of the catching vessels; and (iii) the production and structure of aquaculture establishments. It emphasises reusing EU-level

administrative data for compiling these statistics and reducing duplications and overlaps of data flows in order to reduce burdens and costs for national data providers and producers.

Following the definition of the subject matter and scope, Article 1 categorises the data to be collected into two main domains: fisheries and aquaculture. Within these domains, it outlines topics and detailed topics, which are further specified in the Annex. Articles 2 and 3 present relevant terms (definitions), and observation units. Article 4 establishes data requirements and sets out the criteria for exempting Member States from submitting data on certain variables to the Commission (Eurostat). It also empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts for the purposes of adding, deleting or changing topics and detailed topics, and to implement acts to specify the required datasets and their technical components. This structure has the advantage of offering a harmonised basis with the same common aspects for all topics, while handling differences between topics in secondary legislation.

Article 5 lays down that the Commission can adopt delegated acts to collect data on an ad hoc basis if it is deemed necessary to address additional statistical needs. Article 6 clarifies the coverage of statistics under the regulation.

To limit the administrative burden, Article 7 empowers the Commission – unless there is an objection from a Member State – to produce national and European statistics on catches and fleet by reusing the relevant data from the databases or registers set up by EU law that are either maintained by the Commission or set up at national level and to which the Commission has access. Article 7 also provides for the possibility to produce European statistics on landings and aquaculture using the same approach in the future.

Article 8 stipulates the data sources that the Member States must use, provided that they enable European statistics to be produced that meet the quality requirements laid down in Article 11 of this Regulation. Article 9 introduces the possibility and conditions for the Commission (Eurostat), in agreement with the Member State concerned, to transmit the aggregated data covered by this regulation to international, intergovernmental and regional fisheries management organisations.

Articles 10 and 11 refer to the reference periods and quality reporting for which the Commission may adopt implementing acts. Article 12 sets up a transitional regime for transmitting data on catches from recreational fisheries and data on catches of sensitive species, as required under Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, until those data become available.

Article 13 specifies the activities that might be subject to a EU financial contribution. Articles 14-18 set out mechanisms for granting derogations and exercising delegation, as well as the committee procedure, repeals and entry into force.

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1921/2006, (EC) No 762/2008, (EC) No 216/2009, (EC) No 217/2009 and (EC) No 218/2009

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 338(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) Reliable, comprehensive, and timely European statistics are essential for designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating Union policies and legislation related to fisheries and aquaculture, particularly under the scope of the common fisheries policy ('CFP')¹. Those statistics also help to assess the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on business development, food security, water quality, sensitive species, habitats, climate change and public health, as well as to assess the market functioning and achievement of the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- (2) European fisheries and aquaculture statistics should be designed to support evidence-based decision-making and to monitor progress towards Union strategic objectives, such as the European Green Deal².
- (3) European fisheries and aquaculture statistics are currently collected on the basis of five legal acts that do not provide full consistency across the statistical domains. A common legal framework is needed to ensure consistency, streamline statistical processes and enable a more holistic approach.
- (4) There is a growing need for more detailed and timely European statistics to support implementing EU policies, legislation³, as well as various Commission initiatives,

¹ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj>.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions The European Green Deal (COM/2019/640 final).

including the action plans for organic production⁴, sustainable aquaculture^{5,6}, a sustainable blue economy⁷, algae sector development⁸, energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture⁹, and marine ecosystem protection¹⁰.

- (5) The Resolutions from the Parliament also highlighted the importance for European statistics on fisheries and aquaculture^{11,12}.
- (6) The Union, as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹³, is committed to promoting sustainable fishing, and exercises its powers in the conservation of marine biological resources and fishing that are set under Articles 3(1), point (d) and 4(2), point (d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
- (7) The FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)¹⁴ sets international standards for fisheries statistics, including concepts and classifications, such as the fishing areas for statistical purposes and the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS) list of species. European fisheries and aquaculture statistics should follow these standards where applicable.

³ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/56/oj/eng>; Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj>; and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj>.

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on an action plan for the development of organic production (COM/2021/141 final).

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 (COM/2021/236 final).

⁶ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament on the implementation of 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 (COM/2023/597 final).

⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future (COM/2021/240 final).

⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector (COM/2022/592 final).

⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector (COM/2023/100 final).

¹⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries (COM/2023/102 final).

¹¹ European Parliament resolution of 3 May 2022 toward a sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (2021/2188(INI)).

¹² European Parliament resolution of 4 October 2022 on striving for a sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture: the way forward (2021/2189(INI)).

¹³ https://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf.

¹⁴ Set up in 1959 under the Resolution 23/59 of the Tenth Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Conference, <http://www.fao.org/3/x5573E/x5573e0c.htm#Resolution23>.

- (8) Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁵ sets up a common framework for European statistics, emphasising quality criteria, and minimising respondent and administrative burden.
- (9) The coherence, comparability and interoperability of data, as well as uniform reporting formats, are essential for the efficiency of the data collection and the quality of the European fisheries and aquaculture statistics.
- (10) This Regulation should align its data requests, definitions, methodologies, and reporting formats with those of the FAO and the OECD to enhance coherence, comparability and interoperability, and to reduce the administrative burden.
- (11) European aquaculture statistics should be based on a clear definition of ‘aquaculture establishments’ that: (i) further distinguishes them from statistics under Union Animal Health Law¹⁶; and (ii) takes the unique characteristics of aquaculture (including the production of plants, algae and cyanobacteria) and the coexistence of various production lines into account.
- (12) Statistics on organic aquaculture production are essential to monitor the progress of the EU action plan for organic production. To ensure coherence and comparability, administrative data from Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁷ should be used to the maximum extent possible.
- (13) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁸ should be applied to data on terrestrial territorial units.
- (14) To meet emerging information demands, ad hoc data on fisheries and aquaculture can be collected. Such an additional data request should be duly substantiated and should not impose a disproportionate burden on respondents and national authorities.
- (15) The data structure used in this Regulation should be comparable with the data collection framework (DCF) set out in Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁹.
- (16) Data collection methods should minimise costs and the administrative burden on respondents, including small and medium-sized enterprises and Member States.

¹⁵ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities, OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/223/oj>.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (‘Animal Health Law’), OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>.

¹⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1059/oj>.

¹⁹ 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 (recast), OJ L 157, 20.6.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1004/oj>.

- (17) To avoid multiple reporting by Member States, statistics on catches and Union fishing fleet should be produced by the Commission (Eurostat) from EU-level administrative data collected under Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009²⁰ and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218²¹, as far as possible.
- (18) To make producing statistics more efficient, Member States should be allowed to use various data sources and methods, including administrative sources, surveys, imputation, estimation, and modelling. Digital solutions, monitoring tools²² and remote sensors should also be promoted, while ensuring the quality, accuracy, timeliness and comparability of the statistics.
- (19) Measures should be set out under this Regulation to ensure that confidential data are used in accordance with Articles 21 and 22 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.
- (20) The Commission (Eurostat) may transmit aggregated data to international organisations strictly for statistical or scientific purposes, with the aim of reducing the reporting burden.
- (21) Statistics and quality reports compiled under this Regulation should be disseminated by the Commission (Eurostat) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.
- (22) The European Statistical System Committee ('ESSC') has endorsed the Single Integrated Metadata Structure ('SIMS')²³ as the European statistical system (ESS) standard for quality reporting, contributing to uniform standards and harmonised methods.
- (23) Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/397²⁴ invites Member States to apply the SIMS statistical concepts when compiling reference metadata and quality reports, and to implement the Recommendation insofar as it is relevant for fisheries and aquaculture statistics.
- (24) The Commission evaluation of European fishery statistics (from 2019)²⁵ recommended revising the existing legal framework to meet current and future statistical needs.
- (25) The Commission impact assessment on European fishery statistics (from 2021) recommended that the new legal framework should prioritise the effectiveness and relevance of fisheries and aquaculture statistics.
- (26) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely the establishment of a common framework for European statistics on fisheries and aquaculture, cannot be sufficiently

²⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006, OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj>.

²¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218 of 6 February 2017 on the Union fishing fleet register C/2017/0504, OJ L 34, 9.2.2017, p. 9, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2017/218/oj.

²² Such as Union's Earth observation programme Copernicus, <https://www.copernicus.eu/en>.

²³ SIMS as referred in <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/metadata/reference-metadata-reporting-standards>.

²⁴ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/397 of 17 February 2023 on reference metadata and quality reports for the European Statistical System, replacing Recommendation 2009/498/EC on reference metadata for the European Statistical System, OJ L 53, 21.2.2023, p. 104, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/397/oj>.

²⁵ Commission Staff Working Document Evaluation of the European Fishery Statistics ([SWD\(2019\) 425](#)).

achieved by the Member States, a coordinated and harmonised approach is required. Therefore, for reasons of coherence and comparability, the objective can be better achieved at Union level, where the Union should be able to adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, as set out in Article 5 TFEU. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in the same Article, this Regulation should not exceed what is necessary to achieve that objective.

- (27) To address emerging data needs in fisheries and aquaculture, and changing policy priorities, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 TFEU should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending the detailed topics listed in this Regulation and in respect of specifying data requirements for ad hoc data collections. When adopting delegated acts, the Commission should consider the costs and administrative burdens. It is of particular importance that the Commission carries out appropriate consultations during preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations are conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016²⁶. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council should receive all documents at the same time as the Member States' experts, and their experts should systematically have access to the meetings of the Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.
- (28) To ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of specifying, for both regular data and ad hoc data: (i) the technical elements of the datasets to be transmitted and their technical formats; (ii) the list of variables; (iii) the descriptions of the variables; (iv) the measurement units; (v) the variables on sensitive species; (vi) the variables on organic production; (vii) the variables at regional level; (viii) the thresholds for identifying exempted variables; (ix) the observation units; (x) the precision requirements; (xi) the methodological rules; and (xii) and the deadlines for transmitting the data. In addition, to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission for specifying practical arrangements for the quality reports and their contents and for granting derogations to Member States. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁷. When exercising those powers, the Commission should take into account aspects such as the cost and administrative burden on respondents and Member States.
- (29) In duly substantiated cases, the Commission should be able to grant derogations to Member States for a limited period of time if significant adjustments to their national statistical systems are necessary to implement this Regulation and, in particular, to adapt data collection systems to new requirements, including the use of administrative sources.

²⁶ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making, OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinst/2016/512/oj.

²⁷ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers, OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>.

- (30) To support the implementation of this Regulation, both Member States and the Union should be required to provide funding. Provision should therefore be made for a Union financial contribution in the form of grants.
- (31) Coordination within the ESS should be strengthened to ensure the coherence and comparability of fisheries and aquaculture statistics.
- (32) The measures set out in this Regulation should replace those set by Regulations (EC) No 1921/2006²⁸, (EC) No 762/2008²⁹, (EC) No 216/2009³⁰, (EC) No 217/2009³¹ and (EC) No 218/2009³² of the European Parliament and of the Council. Those regulations should therefore be repealed.
- (33) The ESSC has been consulted,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

1. This Regulation sets up an integrated framework for European statistics related to the extraction of marine biological resources by fishing activities and their placing on the market, and to the Union catching fleet, aquaculture production and aquaculture establishments.
2. The statistics related to fisheries and aquaculture shall cover the following domains and topics:
 - (1) fisheries statistics:
 - (a) catches;
 - (b) landings;
 - (c) catching fleet;
 - (2) Aquaculture statistics:
 - (a) aquaculture production excluding hatcheries and nurseries;
 - (b) flows in aquaculture;
 - (c) aquaculture establishments.

²⁸ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1921/oj>.

²⁹ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/762/oj>.

³⁰ Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic (recast), OJ L 87, 31.03.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/216/oj>.

³¹ Regulation (EC) No 217/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of catch and activity statistics by Member States fishing in the north-west Atlantic (recast), OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 42, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/217/oj>.

³² Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic (recast), OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 70, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/218/oj>.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) ‘Union waters’, ‘marine biological resources’, ‘fishing vessel’, ‘Union fishing vessel’, ‘discards’, ‘aquaculture’, ‘fishing activity’, ‘fishery products’ and ‘aquaculture products’, shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definitions set out in Article 4(1), points (1), (2), (4), (5), (10), (25), (28), (29) and (34) respectively of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³³;
- (2) ‘Union fishing fleet’ shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definition set out in Article 2(c) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218;
- (3) ‘sensitive species’ shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definitions set out in Article 6, point (8) of Regulation (EU) No 2019/1241³⁴;
- (4) ‘catches’ and ‘landings’, shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definitions set out in Article 2, points (15) and (16) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001³⁵;
- (5) ‘fishing licence’, ‘recreational fisheries’ and ‘catching vessel’ shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definitions set out in Article 4, points (9), (28) and (33) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;
- (6) ‘organic production’ shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definitions set out in Article 3, point (1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848³⁶;
- (7) ‘placing on the market’ shall have the meaning that it has under the corresponding definitions set out in Article 5, point (f) of Regulation (EU) 1379/2013³⁷.

³³ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj>.

³⁴ Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005, OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 105, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1241/oj>.

³⁵ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001 of 25 July 2001 establishing the minimum and extended Community programmes for the collection of data in the fisheries sector and laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000, OJ L 222, 17.8.2001, p. 53, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/1639/oj>.

³⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>.

³⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1184/2006 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000, OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1379/oj>.

- (8) 'species' means *taxa* of organisms identified by the international 3-alpha code³⁸, as established by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization ('FAO') (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System list of species for fishery statistics purposes), or – where this is absent – by the 3-alpha code for aggregates of *taxa*;
- (9) 'FAO fishing areas' means the geographical fishing areas identified using the international numerical code, as established by the FAO³⁹ for statistical purposes;
- (10) 'commercial fishing' means commercial exploitation of marine biological resources performed by a catching vessel with a valid fishing licence, or, by a natural or legal person holding a licence or registered in an alternative system to fish without a vessel;
- (11) 'commercial catches' means catches obtained by commercial fishing excluding discards;
- (12) 'recreational catches' means catches of species under conditions provided for in Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 taking place on Union territory and in Union waters;
- (13) 'first sale of landed marine biological resources' means the initial financial transaction where landed fishery products are placed on the market for the first time;
- (14) 'aquaculture establishment' means any administratively delimited or identified premises where aquaculture takes place, with the exception of aquarium and ornamental species production. The same aquaculture establishment may have several production lines;
- (15) 'capture-based aquaculture' means the practice of collecting 'seed' materials - from early life stages to adults - from the wild and their subsequent on-growing in captivity to marketable size, using aquaculture techniques;
- (16) 'first sale' in aquaculture means the initial financial transaction where aquaculture products are placed on the market for the first time;
- (17) 'hatcheries and nurseries' means places for the artificial breeding, hatching and rearing through the early life stages of aquatic organisms. For statistical purposes, hatcheries are limited to the production of fertilised eggs. The first juvenile stages of aquatic animals are produced in nurseries;
- (18) 'aquaculture production' means the output from aquaculture, including production from hatcheries and nurseries, offered for sale;
- (19) 'released to the wild' means the intentional release of aquatic organisms for the restocking – other than for aquaculture purposes – of rivers, lakes and other waters;
- (20) 'observation unit' means an identifiable entity about which data can be obtained;
- (21) 'domain' means one or several datasets that cover particular topics;
- (22) 'topic' means the content of the information to be compiled about the observation units, where each topic covers one or more detailed topics;

³⁸ Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System List of Species for Fishery Statistics Purposes (<https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/asfis/en>)

³⁹ CWP Handbook of fishery statistical standards. Section H: Fishing areas for statistical purposes: <https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/general-concepts/main-water-areas/en/>.

- (23) ‘detailed topic’ means the detailed content of the information to be compiled about the observation units related to a topic; each detailed topic covers one or more variables;
- (24) ‘dataset’ means one or several aggregated variables organised in a structured form;
- (25) ‘variable’ means a characteristic of an observation unit that may have more than one set of values;
- (26) ‘ad hoc data’ means data that are of particular interest for users at a specific point in time but that are not included in the regular datasets;
- (27) ‘administrative data’ means data generated by a non-statistical source and usually held by public or private bodies, the main aim of which is not to provide statistics;
- (28) ‘metadata’ means information that is needed to use and interpret statistics and which describes data in a structured way.

Article 3

Observation units

For the purpose of this Regulation, data shall be obtained for the following observation units:

- (a) the Union fishing fleet;
- (b) other non-Union fishing fleets landing fisheries products in the Union;
- (c) natural or legal persons holding a licence or registered in an alternative system to fish without a vessel;
- (d) shipowners, wholesalers, registered buyers, registered auctions and producer organisations authorised by Member States;
- (e) natural persons engaged in recreational fisheries in the Union;
- (f) Union aquaculture establishments.

Article 4

Data requirements

1. The detailed topics, transmission frequencies, reference periods and the dimensions related to sensitive species, organic production and regional breakdown on fisheries and aquaculture statistics referred to in Article 1, shall be as set out in the Annex.
2. Marine regional data shall be transmitted at the level of the most detailed statistical fishing regions used in the FAO fishing areas. Inland regional data shall be transmitted at the NUTS 2 level, as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003.
3. In order to limit the administrative and financial burden, a Member State may be exempted from submitting data on a certain variable to the Commission (Eurostat) if:
 - (a) the variable has zero or low prevalence in that Member State; or
 - (b) the variable accounts for a small proportion of the aquaculture production at national or regional level (the FAO area or NUTS 2 level).
4. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 for the purposes of amending the Annex, by adding, deleting or changing detailed topics, including their descriptions, and by changing the transmission frequencies,

reference periods and applicable dimensions of detailed topics as set out in the Annex.

5. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts to specify the following technical items, and where applicable, of the individual datasets to be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat):
 - (a) the list of variables;
 - (b) the descriptions of the variables;
 - (c) the measurement units;
 - (d) the variables for sensitive species;
 - (e) the variables for organic production;
 - (f) the variables at regional level;
 - (g) the thresholds for the identification of exempted variables;
 - (h) the precision requirements;
 - (i) the methodological rules;
 - (j) the deadlines for transmitting the data.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted under the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2) at least nine months before the beginning of the relevant reference year.

6. Member States shall transmit data and related metadata using a technical format specified by the Commission (Eurostat) for each dataset. The single-entry point services shall be used to transmit the data to the Commission (Eurostat).

Article 5

Ad hoc data collection

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15, supplementing this Regulation by specifying the data to be transmitted by Member States on an ad hoc basis, where, within the scope of this Regulation, the collection of additional information is deemed necessary for the purpose of addressing additional statistical needs. Those delegated acts shall specify:
 - (a) the topics and detailed topics related to the domains specified in Article 1 to be included in the ad hoc data collection and the reasons for such additional statistical needs;
 - (b) the reference periods.
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt the delegated acts referred to in paragraph 1 starting from the reference year [*two years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation*]. There shall be at least a two-year interval between the deadlines for transmitting consecutive ad hoc data collections.
3. For the purpose of the ad hoc data collections referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts specifying the following technical elements of the data to be transmitted, where appropriate:
 - (a) the list of variables;

- (b) the descriptions of the variables;
- (c) the measurement units;
- (d) the variables for sensitive species;
- (e) the variables for organic production;
- (f) the variables at regional level;
- (g) the thresholds for the identification of exempted variables;
- (h) the precision requirements;
- (i) the methodological rules;
- (j) the deadlines for transmitting the data;
- (k) the observation units.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted under the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2) at least nine months before the beginning of the relevant reference year.

Article 6

Coverage

1. The statistics shall be representative of the statistical population that they describe.
2. In order to reduce the administrative burden and the burden on statistical respondents, the data on fisheries and aquaculture referred to in Article 1(2) shall cover in each Member State at least:
 - 95% of the weight of commercial catches;
 - 90% of the Union catching fleet, for the weight of discards;
 - 90% of the natural persons engaged in recreational fisheries;
 - 95% of the weight of landings;
 - 95% of the Union catching fleet;
 - 95% of the aquaculture production.

Article 7

Production of European statistics on fisheries and aquaculture

1. For the production of European statistics on catches and Union catching fleet, the Commission (Eurostat) shall reuse the relevant data from the databases or registers set up by Union law, as referred to in Article 8(2), that are either maintained by the Commission or set up at national level and to which the Commission has access. Before disseminating those statistics, the Commission (Eurostat) shall consult the relevant national statistical authorities to ensure that statistical confidentiality requirements are met. If a Member State objects to the reuse of their national data by the Commission (Eurostat), it shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) data on catches and catching fleet in the form of aggregated datasets. Such an objection shall be duly substantiated and notified by the Member State concerned to the Commission (Eurostat) no later than 12 months before the start of the reference year.

2. For the production of European statistics on landings and aquaculture, Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) statistics on landings and aquaculture in the form of aggregated datasets.
3. If relevant data on landings or on aquaculture from any other databases or registers set up by Union law become available, the Commission (Eurostat) shall reuse those data to produce statistics following the same procedures as laid down in paragraph 1, provided that such data meet the quality requirements laid down in Article 11.

Article 8

Data sources and methods

1. Member States shall use one or more of the following data sources and methods, provided that they enable statistics to be produced that meet the quality requirements referred to in Article 11:
 - (a) administrative data sources specified in paragraph 2;
 - (b) administrative data sources based on national law;
 - (c) statistical surveys;
 - (d) innovative methods and sources, such as digital tools and remote sensors.
2. As regards paragraph 1, point (a), of this Article, Member States may use the data from the following sources:
 - (a) electronic databases set up under Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;
 - (b) computerised databases set up under Regulation (EU) 2017/1004;
 - (c) Union fishing fleet register set up under Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218;
 - (d) registers set up under Regulation (EU) 2018/848;
 - (e) any other relevant administrative data sources set up under Union law.

Article 9

Data-sharing with international organisations

The Commission (Eurostat) may transmit the aggregated data covered by this Regulation to international, intergovernmental and regional fisheries management organisations, subject to the establishment of an arrangement between the Commission (Eurostat) and the concerned organisation to ensure the data are used strictly for statistical or scientific purposes. This arrangement shall also implement appropriate measures: (i) to protect the data, in particular, to ensure the physical and logical protection of confidential data; and (ii) to monitor and prevent the risk of unlawful disclosure or any use beyond the purposes for which the data were transmitted. The transmission of confidential data in this context shall be in agreement with the Member State concerned.

Article 10

Reference period

The first reference period shall begin in the calendar year [*insert the year starting on 1 January following 18 months after adoption*].

Article 11

Quality requirements and quality reporting

1. For the purpose of this Regulation, the quality criteria set out in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 shall apply.
2. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the quality of the data and metadata transmitted to the Commission.
3. The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data and metadata transmitted to it or obtained from Union-level administrative sources.
4. For the purpose of paragraph 3, each Member State shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat), for the first time by [*to be filled appropriately*], and every three years thereafter, a quality report describing the statistical processes for the data transmitted during the period, including in particular:
 - (a) metadata describing the methodology used and how the technical specifications laid down by this Regulation were achieved;
 - (b) information on the quality of the data obtained from the sources set out in Article 8(1) and used to produce statistics under this Regulation;
 - (c) information on compliance with the coverage requirements set out in Article 6.
5. The Commission (Eurostat) shall publish every three years a quality report on statistics on fisheries and aquaculture compiled according to the procedures mentioned in Article 7.
6. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts setting out the practical arrangements for the quality reports and their contents. Those implementing acts shall be adopted under the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).
7. Member States shall, where necessary, inform the Commission (Eurostat) about any relevant information or changes regarding the implementation of this Regulation that could influence the quality of the data transmitted.
8. Following a duly substantiated request from the Commission (Eurostat), Member States shall provide any necessary additional information that is required to evaluate the quality of the data and metadata transmitted.

Article 12

Transitional regime for data on catches of sensitive species and of recreational fisheries

By way of derogation from Article 7, Member States shall be exempted from transmitting data related to catches of sensitive species and of recreational fisheries until the data become available as required by Articles 14 and 55 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Article 13

Union contribution

1. For the implementation of this Regulation, a financial contribution may be provided from the general budget of the Union to the national statistical institutes and other national authorities included in the list referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 to cover the costs of the following activities:
 - (a) ad hoc data collections referred to in Article 5 of this Regulation;
 - (b) the use of innovative methods and approaches, such as digital tools and remote sensors, referred to in Article 8(1)(d) of this Regulation.
2. The Union financial contribution under this Article shall not exceed 90% of the eligible costs.
3. The amount of the Union financial contribution under this Article shall be set under the rules of the relevant funding programme, subject to the availability of funding.

Article 14

Derogations

1. Where the application of this Regulation, or of the implementing and delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation, necessitates major adaptations in a Member State's statistical system, the Commission may adopt implementing acts that grant derogations to that Member State for a maximum duration of two years. The relevant Member State shall submit a duly reasoned request for such a derogation to the Commission within three months of the date of the entry into force of the act concerned.

The impact of such derogations on the comparability of Member States' data or on the calculation of the required timely and representative European aggregates shall be kept to a minimum. The burden on respondents shall be taken into account when granting the derogation.

2. The implementing acts referred to in paragraph 1, first subparagraph shall be adopted under the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

Article 15

Exercise of delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.
2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 4(4) shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time following the date of entry into force of this Regulation.
3. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 5(1) shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time from [two years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation].
4. The delegation of power referred to in Articles 4(4) and 5(1) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke a delegation of power shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that

decision. The decision shall take effect on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

5. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.
6. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.
7. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles 4(4) or 5(1) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of two months of the notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 16

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the ESSC, which was set up by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Article 17

Repeals

1. Regulations (EC) No 1921/2006, (EC) No 762/2008, (EC) No 216/2009, (EC) No 217/2009, and (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council shall be repealed with effect from 1 January [*of the year following 18 months after adoption*] without prejudice to the obligations set out in those legal acts on the transmission of data and metadata, including quality reports, for reference periods that fall, in whole or in part, before that date.
2. References to the repealed acts shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

Article 18

Entry into force

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

It shall apply from 1 January [*of the year following 18 months after adoption*]

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL STATEMENT

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1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1921/2006, 762/2008, 216/2009, 217/2009 and 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council

1.2. Policy area(s) concerned

Production of European statistics and the common fisheries policy

1.3. Objective(s)

1.3.1. General objective(s)

The EFAS legislation aims to provide high-quality, comparable and timely European statistics on fisheries (catches, landings and fleet) and aquaculture that support the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the CFP and related EU policies, while reducing administrative burdens and costs for Member States.

EFAS will include a main framework regulation and implementing acts. As a regulation, the main EFAS act is directly applicable in EU Member States, whereas the two implementing acts will mainly specify lists of variables and descriptions, and methodological requirements.

1.3.2. Specific objective(s)

Specific objective No 1

To impose a legal requirement on Member States to produce fisheries and aquaculture statistics that cover the entire EU;

Specific objective No 2

To draw up a framework for comparable and high-quality statistics in this domain.

1.3.3. Expected result(s) and impact

For data users, such as the European Commission and other EU institutions, EFAS should provide high-quality, comparable and timely European statistics on fisheries and aquaculture for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CFP and related EU policies.

For national data producers, EFAS should reduce administrative burdens and costs.

For the fishing and aquaculture sectors, EFAS should provide data for market monitoring without an additional burden.

1.3.4. Indicators of performance

The completeness of fisheries and aquaculture statistics.

Dissemination of fisheries and aquaculture statistics in Eurostat's publicly accessible databases.

1.4. The proposal/initiative relates to:

- ☐ a new action
- ☐ a new action following a pilot project / preparatory action¹
- ☐ the extension of an existing action
- ☒ a merger or redirection of one or more actions towards another/a new action

1.5. Grounds for the proposal/initiative

1.5.1. Requirement(s) to be met in the short or long-term including a detailed timeline for roll-out of the implementation of the initiative

Since the inception of the European Economic Community in the 1950s, Eurostat has provided European fisheries statistics on fish catches, landings, Union fishing fleet and aquaculture, which are necessary for the EU's activities. These statistics are currently covered by five legal acts dating back to the 1990s with recasts in the 2000s. The regulations lay down, among other things, the statistical variables, fishing areas covered, reference periods, transmission deadlines and statistical quality criteria.

Relevant, comparable and timely official European statistics are necessary to design, implement, monitor and evaluate European Union policies and legislation related to fisheries. Those statistics are needed, in particular, for: (i) the conservation of marine biological resources; (ii) the CFP, including aquaculture; and (iii) EU policies and legislation on, for example, the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, regions, public health, food safety and the United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Those statistics are also useful for monitoring the impact of fisheries on sensitive species and habitats, and of aquaculture on water quality.

However, in recent years, changes and reforms of the CFP, new EU initiatives and a growing availability of administrative and other data sources for compiling fisheries statistics have made the current legal framework less relevant and effective in meeting data needs. In addition, the current legal basis is rather inflexible and its complexity results in a large amount of aquaculture data being marked as confidential and, thus, being publicly unavailable. There are also overlaps between fisheries data flows from EU Member States to different departments of the European Commission and to various international organisations. A new legal act is needed to overcome these challenges.

Hence, this proposal for a new statistical regulation aims to improve the relevance of European fisheries and aquaculture statistics by meeting user needs more effectively, while increasing flexibility. Additionally, it expands coverage, reduces the volume of confidential data, and addresses quality issues in the source data. This results in fewer data gaps, overlaps, and discrepancies within the EU and global systems of fisheries statistics.

The Commission is expected to adopt a proposal for the new legal framework on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics by 2025. The European Parliament and the Council are expected to adopt the regulation in 2027, and the implementing provisions should follow in 2028.

¹ As referred to in Article 58(2), point (a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

- 1.5.2. *Added value of EU involvement (it may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For the purposes of this section 'added value of EU involvement' is the value resulting from EU action, that is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by Member States alone.*

As an exclusive competence of the EU, the CFP is inherently subject to EU action.

A common fisheries policy must inherently be based on comparable, timely and high-quality official European fisheries and aquaculture statistics, which can only be ensured by action at EU level. This cannot be achieved by the Member States acting in isolation, but only by a common and coordinated approach. European fisheries and aquaculture statistics legislation provides an EU-wide framework for collecting data and supplying fisheries and aquaculture statistics using concepts and definitions that are harmonised across all Member States. It imposes common standards and methodologies that not only produce comparable results for the CFP's and other EU policies' management and analysis needs, but also improve efficiency, timeliness and reliability.

The European fisheries and aquaculture statistics generate significant added value by integrating a comprehensive chain of activities that: (i) align user needs, definitions, and requirements; (ii) coordinate data compilation and transmission; (iii) set up shared quality criteria and a validation framework; and (iv) monitor compliance with the legal framework. This integrated process ensures that European fisheries and aquaculture statistics are readily available to a broad user community.

- 1.5.3. *Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past*

The 2019 evaluation on fisheries statistics highlighted the following points:

1. the current fisheries statistics legislation does not adequately serve new and emerging data needs;
2. the current legal basis is not flexible enough and does not react quickly enough to the emerging needs;
3. the current legislative requirements for aquaculture are too detailed and result in a high number of confidential values;
4. the statistics could be produced more efficiently using European administrative data sources;
5. there are several overlapping data flows.

- 1.5.4. *Compatibility with the multiannual financial framework and possible synergies with other appropriate instruments*

Not applicable because it will be implemented with already existing resources.

- 1.5.5. *Assessment of the different available financing options, including scope for redeployment*

Not applicable, as the first data collection is expected after the end of the current MFF.

1.6. Duration of the proposal/initiative and of its financial impact

☐ limited duration

- ☐ in effect from [DD/MM]YYYY to [DD/MM]YYYY
- ☐ financial impact from YYYY to YYYY for commitment appropriations and from YYYY to YYYY for payment appropriations.

☒ unlimited duration

- Implementation with a start-up period from 2027 to 2030,
- followed by full-scale operation.

1.7. Method(s) of budget implementation planned²

☒ Direct management by the Commission

- ☒ by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;
- ☐ by the executive agencies

☐ Shared management with the Member States

☐ Indirect management by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:

- ☐ third countries or the bodies they have designated
- ☐ international organisations and their agencies (to be specified)
- ☐ the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund
- ☐ bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71 of the Financial Regulation
- ☐ public law bodies
- ☐ bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees
- ☐ bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees
- ☐ bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the common foreign and security policy pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union, and identified in the relevant basic act
- ☐ bodies established in a Member State, governed by the private law of a Member State or Union law and eligible to be entrusted, in accordance with sector-specific rules, with the implementation of Union funds or budgetary guarantees, to the extent that such bodies are controlled by public law bodies or by bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, and are provided with adequate financial guarantees in the form of joint and several liability by the controlling bodies or equivalent financial guarantees and which may be, for each action, limited to the maximum amount of the Union support.

² Details of budget implementation methods and references to the Financial Regulation may be found on the BUDGpedia website: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/corp/budget/financial-rules/budget-implementation/Pages/implementation-methods.aspx>.

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

Standard Commission monitoring and reporting rules.

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. *Justification of the budget implementation method(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed*

Standard Eurostat grant management system.

2.2.2. *Information concerning the risks identified and the internal control system(s) set up to mitigate them*

Standard Eurostat risk management system.

2.2.3. *Estimation and justification of the cost-effectiveness of the controls (ratio between the control costs and the value of the related funds managed), and assessment of the expected levels of risk of error (at payment & at closure)*

Not applicable.

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

The Commission does not finance the regular production of statistics. In the case of ad hoc data collections, the Commission will issue calls for proposals for grants.

In addition to applying all regulatory control mechanisms, Eurostat will apply an anti-fraud strategy in line with the Commission's general anti-fraud actions. This will ensure that the fraud management risk approach is geared to identifying fraud risk areas and suitable responses. Specific IT tools dedicated to analysing fraud cases will be set up where necessary.

Eurostat has drawn up an inspection strategy accompanying the implementation of expenditure. The measures and tools in this strategy are fully applicable to the proposed regulation. Reducing complexity, applying cost-effective monitoring procedures, as well as conducting risk-based *ex ante* and *ex post* checks will reduce the likelihood and contribute to the prevention of fraud. Specific awareness-raising measures and relevant training on fraud prevention are part of the inspection strategy.

3. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

3.1. Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected

- Existing budget lines

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

The financial impact of the proposal will not be known at the time of the adoption of the regulation. The EU contribution does not apply to regular statistical data collection, but only to ad hoc data collections, as specified in Article 5 of the draft regulation. The first ad hoc data can be collected at the earliest two years after the first reference year if a duly substantiated, unexpected data need is identified. Because of this, it is not possible to identify the financial impact.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff. ³	from EFTA countries ⁴	from candidate countries and potential candidates ⁵	From other third countries	other assigned revenue
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

- New budget lines requested

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff.	from EFTA countries	from candidate countries and potential candidates	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

³ Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.

⁴ EFTA: European Free Trade Association.

⁵ Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non -diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
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3.2. Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations

3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations

- ☒ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of operational appropriations
- ☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below

3.2.1.1. Appropriations from voted budget

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number					
DG: <.....>			Year	Year	Year	Year	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
			2024	2025	2026	2027	
Operational appropriations							
Budget line		Commitments	(1a)				0.000
		Payments	(2a)				0.000
Budget line		Commitments	(1b)				0.000
		Payments	(2b)				0.000
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes ⁶							
Budget line			(3)				0.000
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
			Year	Year	Year	Year	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
			2024	2025	2026	2027	
TOTAL	operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

⁶ Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former ‘BA’ lines), indirect research, direct research.

	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <...> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	=5+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Number
--	--------

DG: <.....>		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
Operational appropriations						
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)				0.000
	Payments	(2a)				0.000
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)				0.000
	Payments	(2b)				0.000
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes ⁷						
Budget line		(3)				0.000
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b +3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

⁷ Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

DG: <.....>		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
Operational appropriations						
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)				0.000
	Payments	(2a)				0.000
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)				0.000
	Payments	(2b)				0.000
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes ⁸						
Budget line		(3)				0.000
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <...> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	=5+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

⁸ Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

			Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
• TOTAL operational appropriations (all operational headings)	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
• TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes (all operational headings)		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations Under Heading 1 to 6	Commitments	=4+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
of the multiannual financial framework (Reference amount)	Payments	=5+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Heading of multiannual financial framework		7	'Administrative expenditure' ⁹				
			Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021- 2027
DG: ESTAT							
• Human resources			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.564	0.564
• Other administrative expenditure			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056
TOTAL DG ESTAT	Appropriations		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.620	0.620

DG: <.....>			Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021- 2027
• Human resources			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
• Other administrative expenditure			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL DG <.....>	Appropriations		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

⁹ The necessary appropriations should be determined using the annual average cost figures available on the appropriate BUDGpedia webpage.

TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework		(Total commitments = Total payments)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.620	0.620
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EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year					TOTAL MFF 2021-2027	
		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027			
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7		Commitments					TOTAL MFF 2021-2027	
of the multiannual financial framework		Payments					TOTAL MFF 2021-2027	
		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027			
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
	Payments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)					0.000	
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <...>		=4+6					0.000	
of the multiannual financial framework		=5+6					0.000	
Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number						

DG: <.....>		Year	Year	Year	Year	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
		2024	2025	2026	2027	
Operational appropriations						
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)				0.000

Budget line	Payments		(2a)									0.000
	Commitments											
	Payments		(2b)									0.000
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes ¹⁰												
Budget line			(3)									0.000
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>			=1a+1b+3		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
	Payments		=2a+2b+3		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
				Year	2024	Year	2025	Year	2026	Year	2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments		(4)		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
	Payments		(5)		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes			(6)		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <...> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments		=4+6		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
	Payments		=5+6		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
				Year	2024	Year	2025	Year	2026	Year	2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
• TOTAL operational appropriations (all operational headings)	Commitments		(4)		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
	Payments		(5)		0.000		0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000

¹⁰ Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

• TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes (all operational headings)		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL appropriations under Headings 1 to 6		Commitments	=4+6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
of the multiannual financial framework (Reference amount)		Payments		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Heading of multiannual financial framework	7	‘Administrative expenditure’¹¹					
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EUR million (to three decimal places)

DG: <.....>		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
• Human resources		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
• Other administrative expenditure		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL DG <.....>		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

DG: <.....>		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
• Human resources		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
• Other administrative expenditure		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL DG <.....>		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

¹¹ The necessary appropriations should be determined using the annual average cost figures available on the appropriate BUDGpedia webpage.

TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework						(Total commitments = Total payments)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
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EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	TOTAL MFF 2021-2027
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7		Commitments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
of the multiannual financial framework		Payments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

3.2.2. Estimated output funded from operational appropriations (not to be completed for decentralised agencies)

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs ↓			Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see Section I.6)					TOTAL		
			OUTPUTS											
			Type ¹²	Average cost	Cost €	Cost €	Cost €	Cost €	Cost €	Cost €	Cost €	Total No	Total cost	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1 ¹³ ...														
-														
-														
-														

¹² Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g. number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built, etc.).
¹³ As described in Section 1.3.2. 'Specific objective(s)'.

3.2.3.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations

- ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of appropriations of an administrative nature
- ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of appropriations of an administrative nature, as explained below

3.2.3.1. Appropriations from voted budget

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS		Year	Year	Year	Year	TOTAL 2021 - 2027
		2024	2025	2026	2027	
HEADING 7						
Human resources		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.564	0.564
Other administrative expenditure		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056
Subtotal HEADING 7		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.620	0.620
Outside HEADING 7						
Human resources		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other expenditure of an administrative nature		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Subtotal outside HEADING 7		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.620	0.620

The appropriations required for human resources and other expenditure of an administrative nature will be met by appropriations from the DG that are already assigned to management of the action and/or have been redeployed within the DG, together, if necessary, with any additional allocation which may be granted to the managing DG under the annual allocation procedure and in the light of budgetary constraints.

3.2.4. Estimated requirements of human resources

- ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources
- ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below

3.2.4.1. Financed from voted budget

Estimate to be expressed in full-time equivalent units (FTEs)¹⁴

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027
• Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)					
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission's Representation Offices)		0	0	0	0
20 01 02 03 (EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 01 (Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 11 (Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify)		0	0	0	0
• External staff (in FTEs)					
20 02 01 (AC, END from the 'global envelope')		0	0	0	0
20 02 03 (AC, AL, END and JPD in the EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
Admin. Support line [XX.01.YY.YY]	- at Headquarters	0	0	0	0
	- in EU Delegations	0	0	0	0
01 01 01 02 (AC, END - Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 12 (AC, END - Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Heading 7		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Outside Heading 7		0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	0	0	0

The staff required to implement the proposal (in FTEs):

¹⁴ Please specify below the table how many FTEs within the number indicated are already assigned to the management of the action and/or can be redeployed within your DG and what are your net needs.

	To be covered by current staff available in the Commission services	Exceptional additional staff*		
		To be financed under Heading 7	To be financed from BA line	To be financed from fees
Establishment plan posts	3		n/a	
External staff (CA, SNEs, INT)				

Description of tasks to be carried out by:

Officials and temporary staff	
External staff	

3.2.5. Overview of estimated impact on digital technology-related investments

Compulsory: the best estimate of the digital technology-related investments entailed by the proposal/initiative should be included in the table below.

Exceptionally, when required for the implementation of the proposal/initiative, the appropriations under Heading 7 should be presented in the designated line.

The appropriations under Headings 1-6 should be reflected as ‘Policy IT expenditure on operational programmes’. This expenditure refers to the operational budget to be used to re-use/ buy/ develop IT platforms/ tools directly linked to the implementation of the initiative and their associated investments (e.g. licences, studies, data storage etc.). The information provided in this table should be consistent with details presented under Section 4 ‘Digital dimensions’.

TOTAL Digital and IT appropriations					TOTAL MFF 2021 – 2027				
					Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
					2024	2025	2026	2027	2027
HEADING 7									
IT expenditure (corporate)					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Subtotal HEADING 7					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outside HEADING 7									
Policy IT expenditure on operational programmes					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Subtotal outside HEADING 7					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL					0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

3.2.6. Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework

The proposal/initiative:

- ☐ can be fully financed through redeployment within the relevant heading of the multiannual financial framework (MFF)
- ☐ requires use of the unallocated margin under the relevant heading of the MFF and/or use of the special instruments as defined in the MFF Regulation
- ☐ requires a revision of the MFF

3.2.7. Third-party contributions

The proposal/initiative:

- ☐ does not provide for co-financing by third parties
- ☐ provides for the co-financing by third parties estimated below:

Appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Total
Specify the co-financing body					
TOTAL appropriations co-financed					

3.3. Estimated impact on revenue

- ☒ The proposal/initiative has no financial impact on revenue.
- ☐ The proposal/initiative has the following financial impact:
 - ☐ on own resources
 - ☐ on other revenue
 - ☐ please indicate, if the revenue is assigned to expenditure lines

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Budget revenue line:	Appropriations available for the current financial year	Impact of the proposal/initiative ¹⁵			
		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027
Article					

For assigned revenue, specify the budget expenditure line(s) affected.

Not applicable

Other remarks (e.g. method/formula used for calculating the impact on revenue or any other information).

¹⁵ As regards traditional own resources (customs duties, sugar levies), the amounts indicated must be net amounts, i.e. gross amounts after deduction of 20% for collection costs.

Not applicable

4. DIGITAL DIMENSIONS

4.1. Requirements of digital relevance

Reference to the requirement	Requirement description	Actor affected or concerned by the requirement	High-level Processes	Category
Article 4	Data requirements	Member States, European Commission	Data collection; data transmission	Data; digital public service
Article 5	Ad hoc data collection	Member States, European Commission	Data collection; data transmission	Data; digital public service
Article 6	Coverage	Member States, European Commission	Data collection; data quality verification	Data; digital public service
Article 7	Production of European statistics on fisheries and aquaculture	Member States, European Commission	Data reuse; data processing; data transmission	Data; digital solutions; digital public service
Article 8	Data sources and methods	Member States	Data reuse; data processing; data transmission	Data, digital Solutions; digital public

Reference to the requirement	Requirement description	Actor affected or concerned by the requirement	High-level Processes	Category
Article 9	Data-sharing with international organisations	Member States, European Commission, intergovernmental and regional fisheries management organisations	Data reuse, data transmission;	service Data; digital public service
Article 11	Quality requirements and quality reporting	Member States, European Commission	Data quality verification	Data; digital public service
Article 12	Transitional regime for data on catches from recreational fisheries and data on catches of sensitive species	Member States, European Commission	Data transmission	Data; digital public service

4.2. Data

Type of data	Reference(s) to the requirement	Standard and/or specification (if applicable)
Fisheries statistics (catches, landings and catching fleet)	Article 4; Article 5; Article 6; Article 7; Article 8; Article 9; Article 11; Article 12	Data must conform to the requirements set out in the Annex.
Aquaculture statistics (aquaculture production excluding hatcheries and nurseries, flows in aquaculture and aquaculture establishments)	Article 4; Article 5; Article 6; Article 7; Article 8; Article 9; Article 11; Article 12	Data must conform to the requirements set out in the Annex.
Metadata	Article 4; Article 5; Article 6; Article 7;	Metadata must conform to

	Article 8; Article 9; Article 11; Article 12	the requirements set out in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.
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Alignment with the European Data Strategy

The alignment with the European data strategy and other EU policies related to data is accurately described in recitals 1-33.

Alignment with the once-only principle

The regulation suggests reusing existing data from various sources, such as administrative databases, registers and surveys.

Article 7 of the regulation states that the Commission (Eurostat) must reuse the relevant data from the databases or registers set up by EU law, as referred to in Article 8(2), that are either maintained by the Commission or set up at national level and to which the Commission has access. This means that the Commission will collect data from these sources only once and will reuse it for several purposes, such as producing European statistics on catches and catching fleet.

The regulation also proposes reusing data from other sources, such as electronic databases set up under Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, computerised databases set up under Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, fishing fleet registers set up under Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218, registers set up under Regulation (EU) 2018/848. Article 8 of the regulation states that Member States must use one or more of these data sources and methods, provided that they enable statistics to be produced that meet the quality requirements referred to in Article 11.

The regulation proposes setting up an integrated framework for European statistics related to the extraction of marine biological resources by fishing activities and their placing on the market, and to the Union catching fleet, aquaculture production and aquaculture establishments. This framework proposes empowering the European Commission to adopt delegated acts on the technical specifications of newly created data and related metadata.

The published data will be freely accessible in Eurostat’s public dissemination database (EUROBASE).

Data flows

Type of data	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Actor who provides the data	Actor who receives the data	Trigger for the data exchange	Frequency (if applicable)
Commercial catches	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Discards	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Recreational catches	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Landed products	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Catching fleet structure	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Aquaculture products excluding eggs	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Aquaculture eggs	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually

Type of data	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Actor who provides the data	Actor who receives the data	Trigger for the data exchange	Frequency (if applicable)
Capture-based aquaculture	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Products from hatcheries and nurseries	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Annually
Establishments	Annex Article 1	Member States	Commission (Eurostat)	Calendar year	Every second year
Aggregated data covered by this regulation	Article 9	Commission (Eurostat)	International organisations	As needed	//

4.3. Digital Solutions

Digital solution	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Main mandated functionalities	Responsible body	How is accessibility catered for?	How is reusability considered?	Use of AI technologies (if applicable)
European statistical systems for fisheries and aquaculture	Article 7	Produce European statistics on fisheries	European Commission	Uses the existing infrastructure	Uses the existing infrastructure	Not specified
National statistical systems for fisheries and aquaculture	Article 8	Produce European statistics on fisheries	Member State	Uses the existing infrastructure	Uses the existing infrastructure	Not specified

European statistical systems on fisheries and aquaculture

Digital and/or sectorial policy (when these are applicable)	Explanation on how it aligns
<i>AI Act</i>	Not relevant.
<i>EU Cybersecurity framework</i>	Based on the existing statistical infrastructure.
<i>eIDAS</i>	Based on the existing statistical infrastructure.
<i>Single Digital Gateway and IMI</i>	Not relevant.
<i>Others</i>	Reuses relevant data sources set by sectorial policies.

National statistical systems on fisheries and aquaculture

Digital and/or sectorial policy (when these are applicable)	Explanation on how it aligns
<i>AI Act</i>	Not relevant.
<i>EU Cybersecurity framework</i>	Based on the existing statistical infrastructure.
<i>eIDAS</i>	Based on the existing statistical infrastructure.
<i>Single Digital Gateway and IMI</i>	Not relevant.
<i>Others</i>	Reuses relevant data sources set by sectorial policies.

4.4. Interoperability assessment

Digital public service or category of digital public services	Description	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Interoperable Europe Solution(s) (NOT APPLICABLE)	Other interoperability solution(s)
Statistical services	Dissemination of statistics	All		Eurostat public dissemination database (EUROBASE): Database - Eurostat

Statistical services

Assessment	Measures	Potential remaining barriers
Assess the alignment with existing digital and sectorial policies	This act ensures consistency and streamlines statistical processes in the area of European	- Agreements on additional quality checks, confidentiality requirements, and dissemination of the ECR data, are to be established between the

Assessment	Measures	Potential remaining barriers
Please list the applicable digital and sectorial policies identified	<p>fisheries and aquaculture statistics.</p> <p>Under the legal framework of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>Relying on data (Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218 of 6 February 2017),</p> <p>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/218.</p> <p>Aligned with the DCF (Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004).</p>	Commission and the Member States
<p>Assess the organisational measures for a smooth cross-border digital public services delivery</p> <p>Please list the governance measures foreseen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As is the case for all European statistics disseminated by Eurostat, fisheries and aquaculture statistics are associated with a metadata description; - Member States are advised to use the 'latest version of the SIMS' (see Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/397). All tables disseminated by Eurostat are associated with a metadata description. - Uses the existing network of statistical offices. 	
Assess the measures taken to ensure a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes the use of international 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The specific data sources that the legislation aims to

Assessment	Measures	Potential remaining barriers
shared understanding of the data Please list such measures	<p>standards for fisheries statistics, including concepts and classifications, such as the Fishing Areas for Statistical Purposes and the ASFIS list of species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes the alignment of the data requests, definitions, methodologies, and reporting formats with those of the FAO and the OECD. - Promotes the use of a clear definition for 'aquaculture establishments'. - Applies Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council to data on terrestrial units. 	<p>reuse may not use harmonised concepts and the granularity of observations may hinder the reuse of data for the purpose of statistics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementation aspects may involve the creation of additional vocabularies.
Assess the use of commonly agreed open technical specifications and standards Please list such measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The data structure used in this regulation should be comparable with the DCF set out in Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. - DG MARE collects data using the international FLUX standard (DG-MARE-FLUX-Brochure.pdf). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further developments are needed to extract and develop the data that are currently stored in internal Commission repositories.

4.5. Measures to support digital implementation

Description of the measure	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Commission role (if applicable)	Actors to be involved (if applicable)	Expected timeline (if applicable)
The Commission is	Article 4(4)	Adopt delegated acts	//	When deemed necessary.

empowered to adopt delegated acts to amend the Annex.					
The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts to specify technical items of the individual data sets.	Article 4(5)	Adopt implementing acts	//		At least nine months before the beginning of the relevant reference year.
The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts for ad hoc data collection (if and when deemed necessary).	Article 5	Adopt delegated acts	//		Not before the reference year X (where 'X' means two years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation).
The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts setting out the practical arrangements for the quality reports and their contents.	Article 11	Adopt implementing acts	//		At least nine months before the beginning of the relevant reference year.
Transitional measures on recreational catches that facilitate the implementation of the regulation.	Article 12	//	Member States		//
Financial contribution (for ad hoc data collections and use of innovative methods and approaches).	Article 13	Manages the implementation of the financing programme	Member States statistical offices,		When deemed necessary.



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.7.2025
COM(2025) 435 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) No
1921/2006, (EC) No 762/2008, (EC) No 216/2009, (EC) No 217/2009 and (EC) No
218/2009**

{SEC(2025) 224 final} - {SWD(2025) 232 final} - {SWD(2025) 233 final}

ANNEX

Domains, topics and detailed topics, transmission frequencies, reference periods and applicable dimensions

(a) Domain: Fisheries statistics

Topic	Detailed topics	Transmission frequencies	Reference period	Dimensions	
				Sensitive species	Regional
Catches The data shall cover catches in all FAO fishing regions.	Commercial catches The data shall cover the weight of commercial catches, by species, landed by Union fishing fleet or carried out without a vessel.	Annual	Calendar year	Applicable	Applicable
	Discards The data shall cover the weight of commercial catches returned to the sea, by species.	Annual	Calendar year	Applicable	Applicable
	Recreational catches The data shall cover the weight of recreational catches, by species, regardless of the nationality of the natural persons engaged in recreational fisheries.	Annual	Calendar year	Applicable	Applicable

Topic	Detailed topics	Transmission frequencies	Reference period	Dimensions	
				Sensitive species	Regional
Landings The data shall cover the weight and monetary value of fishery products from commercial catches: (a) landed and sold by Union fishing fleet in all FAO fishing regions; (b) landed and sold by non-Union fleets in the Union territory; (c) carried out without a vessel in the Union territory.	Landed products The data shall cover the weight and monetary value of first sale of fishery products landed, by species, split by presentation, intended use and the flag of the vessel.	Annual	Calendar year		Applicable
Catching fleet The data shall cover the Union catching fleet.	Structure The data shall cover the main structural characteristics of the Union catching fleet and the gear used.	Annual	Calendar year		

(b) Domain: Aquaculture statistics

Topic	Detailed topics	Transmission frequencies	Reference period	Dimensions	
				Organic	Regional
Aquaculture production excluding hatcheries and nurseries The data shall cover the weight and monetary value of the aquaculture production for consumption.	Aquaculture products excluding eggs The data shall cover the weight and value of aquatic organisms, by species, at first sale, reported in live weight equivalent of unprocessed production, split by environment and production method. The data shall exclude aquaculture eggs.	Annual	Calendar year	Applicable	Applicable
	Aquaculture eggs The data shall cover the weight and value of aquaculture eggs, by species, at first sale, reported in fresh weight equivalent of the unprocessed production, split by environment.				Applicable

Topic	Detailed topics	Transmission frequencies	Reference period	Dimensions	
				Organic	Regional
Flows in aquaculture The data shall cover the aquaculture flows not for consumption.	Capture-based aquaculture The data shall cover the weight and value of catches from the wild, by species, for on-growing in aquaculture establishments.	Annual	Calendar year		
	Products from hatcheries and nurseries The data shall cover the production of hatcheries and nurseries, by species, in number produced and sold for on-growing or produced with the intention to be released to the wild, split by destination of use and stage in the life cycle. The data shall cover the monetary value of the production from hatcheries and nurseries, by species, at first sale, for on-growing, split by destination of use and stage in the life cycle.				

Topic	Detailed topics	Transmission frequencies	Reference period	Dimensions	
				Organic	Regional
Aquaculture establishments The data shall cover the structure of aquaculture establishments.	Establishments The data shall cover the number and measurements of aquaculture establishments, split according to Table 11 in Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 ¹ .	Every second year	Calendar year		Applicable

¹ Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022 C/2021/2797 ([OJ L 253, 16.7.2021, p. 51–90](#)).