

MEDIN Workshop to Establish a Fisheries DAC
Wednesday 5th November – Room 409, Nobel House (DEFRA), London
11:00-15:00

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Andy South	CEFAS	Dan Lear	DASSH
Phil Kunzlik	FRS	Lesley Rickards	MEDIN
Steve Beggs	AFBI	David Cotton	MEDIN
Robert Clark	SSFC		

1. MEDIN DAC framework overview:

See presentation by DC (powerpoint attached)

2. Summaries of current situation and interest

from CEFAS, FRS, AFBI and Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee

2.1 CEFAS (Andy South)

Background

- Have carried out a recent internal review of data management

Which relevant Fish and Fisheries Data Sets could / should a MEDIN fisheries DAC include?

- Trawl survey data - > Submitted to ICES
- Market sampling
- Commercial Landings - > derived products
- Discards
- Egg survey data?
- Stomach content data

Are there any third party holders of (CEFAS) data?

- ICES

Does CEFAS wish to (continue to) manage its own data?

- YES

Is CEFAS able to generate MEDIN format metadata?

- Yes – for some data this would be reasonably straight forward. Has been working with DASSH on metadata generation tool
- Some old Cruise Summary Reports might not have sufficient information?
- DASSH can host CEFAS metadata records for short term.

Current Situation Re Access to Data Holdings?

- Pilot project has developed GIS web tool for some fisheries data

Willing to hold data for third parties?

- Not in general (?), but have recently taken in Port Erin data

Ready to go through accreditation process?

- Yes, subject to resource availability

(AS to confirm this, and CEFAS ability to host an open access server to publish metadata)

2.2 FRS (also see attached document: FRS_fisheriesDAC_notes_Nov08.doc)

Background

- Potentially major reorganisation ahead.
- Proposed formation of Marine Scotland to incorporate FRS, Scot Gov Marine Directorate, Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency. Creation of Inshore Fisheries Groups.
- Potential requirement to populate regional fisheries data bases, based on the Danish "FishFrame" project.
- Position with respect to metadata and data management very similar to CEFAS.

- FRS plans to appoint a data manager in 2009.
- Has a metadata database that is eGMS compliant
- Scot Gov has signed up to MEDIN, and through them FRS – but resource issues have to be sorted out.

Which relevant Fish and Fisheries Data Sets could / should a MEDIN fisheries DAC include?

In addition to the list provided in the agenda:

- Catch and effort data (“FIN” and “FAD” data)
- Vessel monitoring data (VMS)
- Economic data
- Control and Enforcement data
- Scottish Inshore Fisheries Groups’ data (if they generate/maintain any data holdings)
- SEPA, SNH, Aberdeen University, St Andrew’s University, Heriot Watt, NAFC, SAMS, UMBS (Millport)
- Fisheries management databases at FRS (FMD, Gem, multi-species discards, rare fish)

Are there any third party holders of (FRS) data??

- ICES – DATRAS survey data
- Landings and effort data for > 10m vessels (?) : FIN (Scotland), FAD(England and Wales)
- IFISH2 database
- DCR regional database requirements implies a future external database.

Does FRS wish to (continue to) manage its own data?

- Depends on organisational re-arrangements within “Marine Scotland”, but probably yes.

Is FRS able to generate MEDIN format metadata?

- If required – current metadatabase is eGMS compliant
- Need clearly defined MEDIN standards
- Publication depends on IT Strategy from Marine Scotland.

Current Situation Re Access to Data Holdings?

- Online – only via ICES, BODC
- Formats – DATRAS, INTERCATCH, FishFrame, COST, ad hoc
- Access and Use Policy – Generally pretty open – see attached document.

Willing to hold data for third parties?

- Not in general.

Ready to go through accreditation process?

- Yes, and have submitted a first response.

2.3 AFBI

Background

- See ppt (MDIPAFBI.ppt)

Which relevant Fish and Fisheries Data Sets could / should a MEDIN fisheries DAC include?

- Research Vessel Surveys: Groundfish, Clupeiod acoustic, MIK net juvenile gadoid, Herring (larval), Scallops, Nephrops
- Commercial Fisheries: landings, observers (catch, discards), logbook data (catch and effort)
- Salmon and Eels (and other fish that move between freshwater and marine environment).

Third Party Holders of (AFBI) Data?

- ICES – DATRAS survey data, INTERCATCH
- BODC – Cruise summary data – has been interrupted recently but plan to resume.
- Locks Agency
- EHS

Does AFBI wish to (continue to) manage its own data?

- Yes, is planning to bring in a data manager in 2009.

Is AFBI able to generate MEDIN format metadata?

- Depends on new data manager’s availability and expertise
- Don’t know about publication through OAI

Current Situation Re Access to Data Holdings?

- Online – buoy data are available, DATRAS and INTERCATCH through ICES
- Generally open access to data is provided

Willing to hold data for third parties?

- Not at present, no standard procedures in place.
- Ready to go through accreditation process?
- Yes, in principle.

2.4 Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee

Background

- Sea Fisheries committees were established in 1887, the legislation was re-written in the 1960's.
- 12 current SFCs cover England and Wales, funded by local authorities. Each ctte has a different way of operating, One person to coordinate between the different SFCs.
- Welsh Assembly Govt is going to take over welsh SFC's (contact at CCW is Claire Eno)
- In England SFC's will be replaced by Inshore Fisheries Coordinating Authorities (IFCAs) following Marine Bill.
 - Aims is that IFCAs will be better coordinated than SFCs, MFA has recently held a meeting to discuss what data might be collected by IFCAs
- Mission is to regulate, protect and where appropriate develop inshore fisheries.
- SFCs:
 - operate to 6 nm offshore – and so within “thin white line” along coast where VMS data can be lacking (especially for vessels < 10m).
 - Manage regulating orders
 - To some extent coordinate
 - Tend to collect more data on habitats than stock
- Do not provide data to ICES

Comment: 1883

Comment: A contact might be

Comment: Conservation

Comment: VMS only on vessels over 15m

Comment: Though more data held on shellfish

What relevant Data Sets do sea fisheries committees collect / hold?

- Tend to collect more data on habitats than stock
 - Question to Rob: Does this go to JNCC / NBN?
- Shellfish data
 - Good historic data and current records of stock – especially for shellfish grounds in Wales and the Wash
- Fisheries data
 - Good records for areas wholly managed within areas covered by individual SFCs
- VMS and enforcement data

Comment: Not from Sussex

Third Party Holders of (SFC) Data?

- Data are not provided to ICES

Data management / metadata

- SSFC recognises data management does need to be improved, would prefer to outsource data management / requires technical assistance
 - Andy South – CEFAS has been in contacts with SFCs to support generation of some assessments – Andy – could you find out some further info?
- First step is for MEDIN to work with SFCs to establish a summary of SFC data holdings
 - DC to generate an initial xls proforma, and to pass to Robert Clark for comment

3. Other Priority Fisheries / Fish data?

Some initial ideas were discussed (see below) - it is suggested this is followed up by working on the spreadsheet circulated by DC

	More details	Who to follow up?	Which DAC?
National Marine Aquarium	Rare fish....	DL	
Shark Trust		DL	
Marine Conservation Society	Incidental sightings	DL	
Welsh Federation of Fishermen's Associations			
Environment Agency (Marine Team in Peterborough)		DC	
Natural England		DC	
SEPA		DC	
Natural History Museum		LJR/DC	
NOCS		LJR/DC	
Universities (need to be specific here)			
.....			

4. Recent activities in DASSH

DASSH have developed a web-based metadata tool that DASSH in cooperation with CEFAS. An internet connection is required.

The tool can be used to generate MEDIN format metadata records from scratch, to create and subsequently edit templates for data sets with common attributes, or to import and edit existing metadata records. If xml schema for other formats are available, records from other formats can also be imported.

Records can be subsequently quality controlled by those with suitable access rights

The tool employs pull down menus for metadata fields whose content is limited to restricted lists (either by relevant standards: UK Gemini, ISO 19115, or through MEDIN recommendations, e.g. the use of specific vocabularies). It has been configured to generate records for CEFAS data, and so has pull down lists appropriate to CEFAS holdings. In principle the tool can be adapted to provide a more general input, or conversely to suit specific requirements e.g. for FRS, AFBI.

All were invited to try out the tool, and provide comments to Dan Lear (dble@mba.ac.uk), go to: http://www.marlin.ac.uk/fishdac_metadata/login.php and have a play!

Discussion:

- Could it link to the BODC Parameter Discovery Vocabulary (for keywords)?
 - Yes!
- Could it link to the EDMO directory (Central listing of European marine organisations) maintained by MARIN for SeaDataNet
 - Yes – if there a web service for it?
- Would be useful to incorporate a gazetteer to link regional names to specified bounding boxes / shapefiles.

LJR to send Dan the xml schema for EDMED, and the CEFAS EDMED entries

5) Agreeing an overall approach - specific plans for the next year.

Accreditation Process

CEFAS, FRS and AFBI ready to go through the MEDIN accreditation process, resources allowing.

- FRS – DC has the initial submission, will return to Phil Kunzlik with comments, and guidance on what to do next.
- CEFAS, AFBI. DC will send the list of requirements, with some guidance on how to respond.
- Dan Lear noted that some aspects may not be relevant – DC to provide specific guidance on these.

Initial DAC coverage - Generating Metadata Records

- PK suggested that we start process with a limited set of data and then review
 - Research Vessel Surveys
 - Landings and Discards Data
- CEFAS
 - Have already started to generate some metadata, should continue, prioritising on the above, plus aggregated catch and effort data.
 - These records to be published initially on DASSH server
 - AS to coordinate with DL – and to assign someone at CEFAS with the task.
- DBLE to contact FRS and AFBI in the New Year to:
 - Agree timetable and process to adapt metadata tool (and so generate metadata records).
 - Produce a costed (timetabled) plan to MEDIN (in January 2009)
- LJR and DC to investigate how Cruise Summary Reports at BODC, EDMED and UKDMOS entries can be used as sources for metadata.
 - DC to set up MEDIN Fish DAC forum / message board.
 - PK to investigate whether (Scottish) Inshore Fisheries Groups will collect / hold data.

Who should host fisheries data not from CEFAS, FRS, AFBI

- Need to agree who can act as DAC for data which are not the responsibility of CEFAS, FRS, AFBI

Actions

1. **AS (CEFAS), SB (AFBI)** – to confirm CEFAS, AFBI readiness to go through MEDIN DAC accreditation process, and to check ability to run an OAI server to publish metadata to MEDIN
2. **DC (MEDIN)** - to send to CEFAS, AFBI (cc FRS) MEDIN accreditation document, with some guidance notes.
3. **DC (MEDIN)** - to return to FRS review of FRS MEDIN DAC accreditation questionnaire.
4. **RC (SSFC)** – Clarification on SSFC data holdings. Does SSFC keep all the data it collects, does it pass any on to other agencies? (e.g. habitats data)
5. **AS (CEFAS)** – to investigate CEFAS links with Sea fisheries committees and establish if any procedures exist for data transfer.
6. **DC (MEDIN)** – To compile an initial overview list of potential data sets that could be incorporated into the MEDIN fisheries DAC and circulate.
7. **LJR (MEDIN)** - to send Dan Lear the xml schema for EDMED, and the CEFAS EDMED entries. Also to liaise on possible linkage to the EDMO directory (of marine observations) – is there a web service?
8. **AS (CEFAS)** – To progress generation of MEDIN format metadata – prioritising on research vessel survey, landings and discard, and aggregated catch and effort data. Liaise with DL for publishing metadata records, and to avoid duplication of this with EDMED records processed under action 7. Send DC an estimated date for completing this.
9. **DBLE (DASSH)** to contact FRS and AFBI in the New Year to:
 - o Agree timetable and process to adapt metadata tool (and so generate metadata records).
 - o Produce a costed (timetabled) plan to MEDIN
10. **LJR/DC (MEDIN)** - investigate how Cruise Summary Reports at BODC, EDMED and UKDMOS entries can be used as sources for metadata.
11. **DC (MEDIN)** – to set up MEDIN fisheries DAC email forum / message board.
12. **PK (FRS)** – investigate if Scottish Inshore Fisheries groups will collect / hold data
13. **ALL!** – Look at initial spreadsheet circulated by DC and add details of data sets that should be included, comment on those already added.

Background Documents:

- o MEDIN DACs Overview (MEDIN_DACS_overview.doc)
- o MEDIN DAC requirements (MEDIN Requirements for DACs.doc)
- o Fisheries DAC Status - Summary Paper (MEDIN_Fisheries_DAC_Summary_Oct08.doc)
- o Extract from MARG Fisheries Paper (MARG_fisheriespaper.doc)
- o David Cotton's Power point (Fisheries_DAC_wkshop.ppt)
- o FRS paper: (FRS_fisheriesDAC_notes_Nov08.doc)
- o AFBI's powerpoint: (MDIPAFBI.ppt)
- o Initial Fisheries Data Spreadsheet (MEDIN Fisheries DAC - Data sources.xls)