



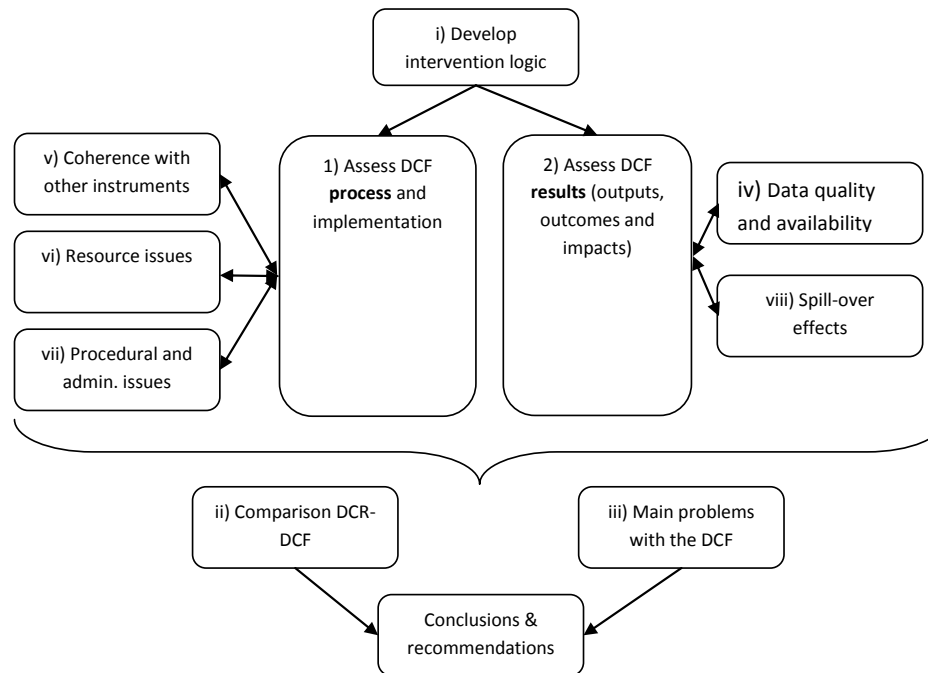
# The Evaluation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF)

**Framework Contract No.  
MARE/2011/01/Lot 2,  
Specific Contract No. 1**  
Final Report Summary

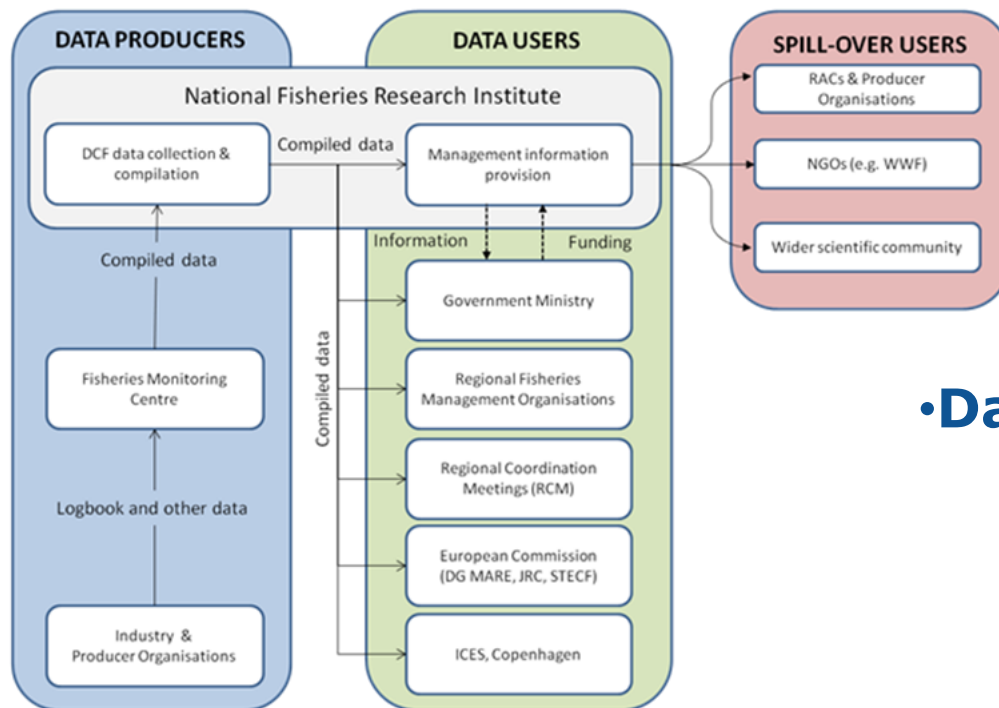
# Evaluation questions structured around key elements of DCF

*1 – process*

*2- results/outputs*



# Data collection strategy



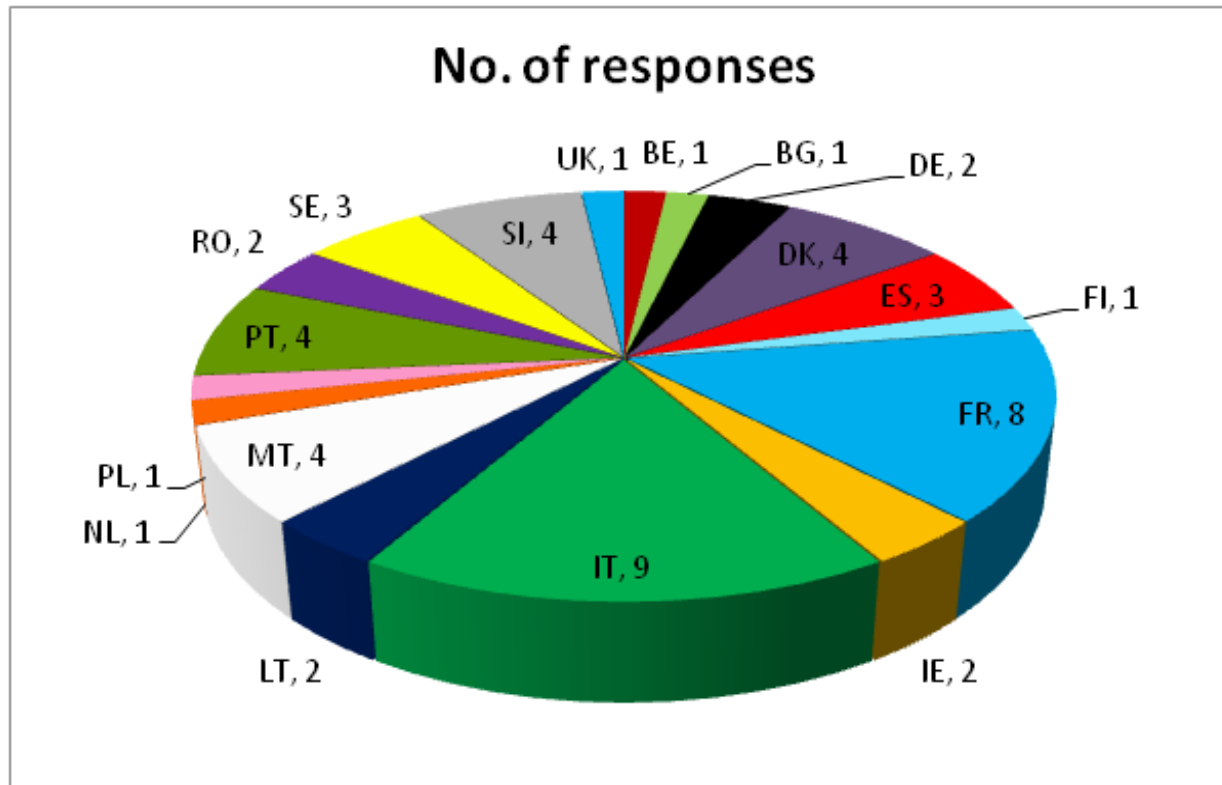
## •Data collection methods:

- Questionnaires
- Interviews
- Case studies
- Desk research

# Case Studies

- *6 Member States: Denmark; France (Atlantic and Mediterranean); Ireland; Malta; Poland; Romania*
- *Objectives:*
  - Provide holistic view of data production, links with users and feed-back process
  - Provide in-depth review of relevant secondary data sources from the selected countries in greater detail than general desk research
  - highlight resource and administrative issues
  - detect spill-over uses and users of DCF data

# MS questionnaires



- 109 completed questionnaires
  - 20 from NCs (except France and Greece)

- 53 producer questionnaires
- 36 user questionnaires
  - 13 from ICES/STECF

# Results summary

- *Structured primarily around tasks raised in ToR:*
  - **DCF processes covering:** Resource issues; Procedural and administrative issues; Coherence with other EU instruments and structures
  - **DCF outputs covering:** Data availability and data quality; Spill-over effects
  - **Overarching issues covering:** Broad comparison between the DCR and DCF; Main problems with the DCF
- *Summary presents composite results across broad and diverse information sources*

# DCF process conclusions:

## Resource issues

- *Financial resources appear to be appropriate to requirements and provide good value for money against international norms*
- *Potential future constraints with human resources available at national level due to economic crisis, particularly if data requirements expand further*
- *EU funding availability and payments do not correspond with approval and subsequent implementation of National annual Programmes*

# DCF process conclusions:

## Procedural and administrative issues

- *Reporting compliance since 2009 has generally been good across MS*
- *Administrative workload can be problematic at national level*
  - Standardisation of reporting formats should be a future priority to address this
  - impractical/unrealistic reporting schedules
  - clashes between reporting dates and data collection deadlines add to the administrative burden
- *Administrative workload at EU level can be difficult.*
- *EU control instruments are in-effective and not enforced proportionally to the level of non-compliance*



# DCF process conclusions:

Coherence with EU instruments & structures

- *Greatest extent of overlap lies between DCF transversal data and relevant articles of:*
  - the Control Regulation and
  - aspects of Eurostat pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) no.26/2004
- *Additional overlap between DCF Marine ecosystem, biological and survey data and MSFD requirements*
  - some of the Marine ecosystem data are not currently used for purposes of the CFP
- *Improved data handling and processing in some MS is required*
  - Regional & centralised data sharing mechanism (e.g. EMODNET) might facilitate this & streamline exchange

# DCF outputs conclusions:

## Data quality

- *Data requirements not end user driven, data quantity focus*
- *Sampling strategies not designed on a regional level to minimise bias/increase efficiency*
  - Therefore level of precision (i.e., CV) is not a good indicator of data quality due to bias issues.
- *Metiers differ amongst MS leading to ineffective sampling strata at scales required for management*
- *Main end users consider quality checks and data descriptions to be insufficient, reducing the utility of the information*

# DCF outputs conclusions:

## Data availability

- *Access to data at regional level would increase utility*
- *Transversal, research survey and biological data are the most useful data sets*
- *Aquaculture economic and processing industry data are rarely used*
  - likely a result of recent introduction into DCF requirements (i.e. post DCR)
- *Marine ecosystem data equally used/not used amongst questionnaire respondents*

# Recommendations: Resource related

- *To improve effectiveness of DCF recognition of the human resource constraints is required*
  - **Review of data end use to streamline data collection/handling**
- *Efficiency and effectiveness may be undermined by differential investment and technical capacities within MS.*
  - **A review of capacities, particularly capital items and IT capabilities might be undertaken to establish priorities for future investment**
- *Review DCF funding/payment cycle with a view to alignment with National Programme approval and implementation time lines*

## Recommendations:

### Procedural and Administrative

- *Common/standardised data formats to improve efficiency*
- *Review reporting and data call schedules; provide a timetable at the beginning of each year*
- *Review MS data handling capacity in terms of hardware, software and human resources to indicate how big a problem bottlenecks around data calls are for MS*
- *Compare utility of regional databases (i.e. Fishframe) and central data sharing facilities (i.e. EMODNET/Data Highway)*
- *Control instruments could be revised to be in line with extent of non-compliance*

## **Recommendations: Data collection coherence, relevance and availability**

- *Align aggregation levels for data required under different instruments*
  - **Carry out in consultation with end users to ensure aggregation levels are in line with needs of fisheries managers/scientists**
- *Centralised data sharing system could be used to streamline access and use*
- *Further consultations with ICES and STECF should be established to define priority stocks/data requirements and appropriate sampling scales*

## Concluding remarks

- ***Majority of stakeholders consider DCF to be an improvement over DCR***
  - significantly improved data collection for provision of scientific advice
  - Main problem from a users-perspective is the lack of end-use focus to data collection requirements