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(Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is obligatory)

REGULATIONS

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 199/2008

of 25 February 2008

concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 37 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy ⁽³⁾ provides for regular assessments by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as the STECF) of the management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations.

(2) The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Agreement relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks both emphasise the need to develop research and data collection with a view to improving scientific knowledge of the sector.

(3) In line with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (hereinafter referred to as the CFP) on the conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in non-Community waters, the Community must take part in the efforts undertaken to conserve fisheries resources, notably in accordance with the provisions adopted in Fisheries Partnership Agreements or by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

(4) On 23 January 2003, the Council adopted conclusions concerning the Commission's Communication to the Council and the European Parliament setting out a 'Community Action Plan to integrate environmental protection requirements into the CFP' with guiding principles, management measures and a work programme, to move towards an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

(5) On 13 October 2003, the Council adopted conclusions concerning the Commission's Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the improvement of scientific and technical advice for Community fisheries management, describing the Community's needs for scientific advice, setting out the mechanisms for providing advice, identifying the areas where system needs to be strengthened and suggesting possible solutions over the short to medium and long term.

⁽¹⁾ Opinion of 13 November 2007 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 10, 15.1.2008, p. 53.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 865/2007 (OJ L 192, 24.7.2007, p. 1).

(6) Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 of 29 June 2000 establishing a Community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the common fisheries policy⁽¹⁾ needs to be reviewed in order to take due consideration of a fleet-based approach towards fisheries management, the need to develop an ecosystem approach, the need for improved quality, completeness and broader access to fisheries data, more efficient support for provision of scientific advice and the promotion of cooperation among Member States.

(7) The current regulations in the area of fisheries data collection and management include provisions on the collection and management of data relating to fishing vessels, their activities and catches and on price monitoring, which should be taken into account in this Regulation in order to streamline collection and use of these data throughout the CFP and to avoid any duplication of collection of data. Those current regulations are as follows: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy⁽²⁾, Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 of 22 April 1996 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture production⁽³⁾, Commission Regulation (EC) No 2091/98 of 30 September 1998 concerning the segmentation of the Community fishing fleet and fishing effort in relation to the multi-annual guidance programmes⁽⁴⁾, Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 of 17 December 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products⁽⁵⁾, Council Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002 of 16 December 2002 establishing specific access requirements and associated conditions applicable to fishing for deep-sea stocks⁽⁶⁾,

Council Regulation (EC) No 1954/2003 of 4 November 2003 on the management of the fishing effort relating to certain Community fishing areas and resources⁽⁷⁾, Commission Regulation (EC) No 2244/2003 of 18 December 2003 laying down detailed provisions regarding satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems⁽⁸⁾, Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 of 30 December 2003 on the Community fishing fleet register⁽⁹⁾, Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 of

26 April 2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries⁽¹⁰⁾, 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⁽¹¹⁾, Council Regulation (EC) No 1966/2006 of 21 December 2006 on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities and on means of remote sensing⁽¹²⁾, and Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel⁽¹³⁾.

(8) Data collected for the purposes of scientific evaluation should include information on fleets and their activities, biological data covering catches, including discards, survey information on fish stocks and the environmental impact that may be caused by fisheries on the marine ecosystem. It should also include data explaining price formation and other data which may facilitate an assessment of the economic situation of fishing enterprises, aquaculture and the processing industry, and of employment trends in these sectors.

(9) In order to protect and conserve living aquatic resources and their sustainable exploitation, the ecosystem based approach to fisheries management should be progressively implemented. In view of this, it is necessary to collect data in order to assess the effects of fisheries on the marine ecosystem.

(10) Community programmes to collect, manage and use fisheries data should be implemented under the direct responsibility of the Member States. Accordingly Member States should draw up national programmes in line with the Community programme.

(11) It is necessary that Member States cooperate among themselves, as well as with third countries, and coordinate their national programmes with respect to the collection of data regarding the same marine region and regions covering relevant inland waters.

(12) Priorities should be established at Community level, as should the procedures for data collection and processing within the Community, in order to ensure that the entire system is consistent and to optimise its cost-effectiveness by creating a stable multi-annual regional framework.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 176, 15.7.2000, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 (OJ L 248, 22.9.2007, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 108, 1.5.1996, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 266, 1.10.1998, p. 36.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1759/2006 (OJ L 335, 1.12.2006, p. 3).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 351, 28.12.2002, p. 6. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2269/2004 (OJ L 396, 31.12.2004, p. 1).

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 289, 7.11.2003, p. 1.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 333, 20.12.2003, p. 17.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 25. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1799/2006 (OJ L 341, 7.12.2006, p. 26).

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 150, 30.4.2004, p. 12, corrected by OJ L 185, 24.5.2004, p. 4. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 809/2007 (OJ L 182, 12.7.2007, p. 1).

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 1, corrected by OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p. 3.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 248, 22.9.2007, p. 17.

- (13) The data referred to in this Regulation should be put into national computerised databases so that they are accessible to the Commission and can be transmitted to end-users. It is in the interest of the scientific community that data which does not allow for personal identification is available to any party who has an interest in its analysis.
- (14) Managing fisheries resources requires the processing of detailed data in order to address specific issues. In that context, Member States should transmit data needed for scientific analysis and should ensure they have the technical capacity of doing so. If necessary, the detailed data may be aggregated before their transmission, to the level of aggregation stipulated in the request as defined by the end-users.
- (15) The obligations concerning access to the data covered by this Regulation are without prejudice to Member States' obligations under Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information ⁽¹⁾, as well as under Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies ⁽²⁾.
- (16) The protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data for the purposes of this Regulation is governed by Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data ⁽³⁾ and by Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data ⁽⁴⁾.
- (17) The implementation of national programmes to collect and manage fisheries data requires significant expenditure. The benefit of such programmes can only be fully realised at Community level. There should therefore be provision for a Community financial contribution to the Member States' costs, in accordance Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 of 22 May 2006 establishing Community financial measures for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the area of the Law of the Sea ⁽⁵⁾.
- (18) In case the Commission finds that the expenditure concerned is linked to irregularities, provision should be made for financial corrections in accordance with Article 28 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006.
- (19) Correct execution of the National Programmes and, in particular, adherence to deadlines, quality control, validation and transmission of the data collected, is of high importance. For this reason Community financial contribution should be made conditional on adherence to the relevant deadlines, on quality control, on compliance with agreed quality standards and on provision of data. Consequently, a financial sanction system related to non-compliance with these conditions should be introduced.
- (20) In order to improve the reliability of scientific advice needed to conduct the CFP, the Member States and the Commission should coordinate and cooperate in the relevant international scientific bodies.
- (21) Priority should be given to ensuring the attendance of the relevant scientific experts in the expert groups conducting the scientific evaluation needed to conduct the CFP.
- (22) The scientific community should be consulted and those working in the fishing industry and other interest groups should be informed on the implementation of the data collection provisions. The appropriate bodies in which to gather the opinions required are the STECF, established by Commission Decision 2005/629/EC ⁽⁶⁾, the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, set up by Commission Decision 1999/478/EC ⁽⁷⁾, and the Regional Advisory Councils set up by Council Decision 2004/585/EC ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, p. 26.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 264, 25.9.2006, p. 13.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31. Directive as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 160, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 225, 31.8.2005, p. 18.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 187, 20.7.1999, p. 70. Decision as amended by Decision 2004/864/EC (OJ L 370, 17.12.2004, p. 91).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 256, 3.8.2004, p. 17. Decision as amended by Decision 2007/409/EC (OJ L 155, 15.6.2007, p. 68).

- (23) The management committee should ensure close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission in order to facilitate the correct implementation of this Regulation. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission ⁽¹⁾.
- (24) Based on past experience and new needs it is appropriate to repeal Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 and to replace it by this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject-matter

1. This Regulation establishes rules on:
- (a) the collection and management, in the framework of multi-annual programmes, of biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data concerning the fisheries sector;
- (b) the use of data concerning the fisheries sector in the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy (hereinafter referred to as the CFP), for the purpose of scientific analysis.
2. This Regulation also lays down provisions for the improvement of the scientific advice needed for the implementation of the CFP.
3. This Regulation shall be without prejudice to the obligations under Directive 95/46/EC, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001, Directive 2003/4/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006.

Article 2

Definitions

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

- (a) 'fisheries sector' means activities related to commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, aquaculture and industries processing fisheries products;
- (b) 'aquaculture' means the rearing or cultivation of aquatic organisms using techniques designed to increase the production of the organisms in question beyond the natural capacity of the environment; the organisms remaining the property of a natural or legal person throughout the rearing or culture stage, up to and including harvesting;
- (c) 'recreational fisheries' means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting living aquatic resources for recreation or sport;
- (d) 'marine regions' means the geographical areas set out in Annex I to Council Decision 2004/585/EC and the areas established by the regional fisheries management organisations;
- (e) 'primary data' means data associated with individual vessels, natural or legal persons or individual samples;
- (f) 'meta data' means data giving qualitative and quantitative information on the collected primary data;
- (g) 'detailed data' means data based on primary data in a form which does not allow natural persons or legal entities to be identified directly or indirectly;
- (h) 'aggregated data' means the output resulting from summarising the primary or detailed data for specific analytic purposes;
- (i) 'end-users' means bodies with a research or management interest in the scientific analysis of data in the fisheries sector;
- (j) 'fleet-fishery based sampling' means biological, technical and socio-economic data collection surveys based on agreed regional fishing types and fleet segments;
- (k) 'Community fishing vessel' means a vessel as defined in Article 3(d) of Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23. Decision as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC (OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p. 11).

CHAPTER II

**COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF DATA IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMMES**

SECTION 1

Community programme and national programmes

Article 3

Community programme

1. A multi-annual Community programme for collection, management and use of biological, technical, environmental, and socio-economic data concerning:

(a) commercial fisheries carried out by Community fishing vessels:

(i) within Community waters, including commercial fisheries for eels and salmon in inland waters;

(ii) outside Community waters;

(b) recreational fisheries carried out within Community waters including recreational fisheries for eels and salmon in inland waters;

(c) aquaculture activities related to marine species, including eels and salmon, carried out within the Member States and the Community waters;

(d) industries processing fisheries products;

shall be defined in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

2. The Community programme shall be drawn for three-year periods. The first period shall cover the years 2009 and 2010.

Article 4

National programmes

1. Without prejudice to their current data collection obligations under Community law, Member States shall collect primary biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data within the framework of a multi-annual national programme (hereinafter referred to as the national programme) drawn up in accordance with the Community programme.

2. The national programme shall include, in particular, the following matters as provided for in Section 2:

(a) multi-annual sampling programmes;

(b) a scheme for at-sea monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries, where necessary;

(c) a scheme for research surveys-at-sea;

(d) a scheme for management and use of the data for scientific analyses purposes.

3. The procedures and methods to be used in collecting and analysing data and in estimating their accuracy and precision shall be included in the national programmes.

4. Member States shall submit their national programmes for approval to the Commission. They shall submit them by electronic means by the date, in the format and to the address to be established by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

5. The first national programmes shall include the activities for the years 2009 and 2010.

Article 5

Coordination and cooperation

1. Member States shall coordinate their national programmes with other Member States in the same marine region and make every effort to coordinate their actions with third countries having sovereignty or jurisdiction over waters in the same marine region. For this purpose the Commission may organise Regional Coordination Meetings in order to assist Member States in coordinating their national programmes and the implementation of the collection, management and use of the data in same region.

2. In order to take into account any recommendation made at regional level at the Regional Coordination Meetings, Member States shall where appropriate submit amendments to their national programmes during the programming period. Those amendments shall be sent to the Commission at the latest two months prior to the year of implementation.

3. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

*Article 6***Evaluation and approval of national programmes**

1. The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) shall evaluate:

- (a) the conformity of the national programmes and any amendments thereto with Articles 4 and 5; and
- (b) the scientific relevance of the data to be covered by national programmes for the purposes laid down in Article 1(1) and the quality of the proposed methods and procedures.

2. If the evaluation by STECF, referred to in paragraph 1, indicates that a national programme does not comply with Articles 4 and 5 or does not guarantee the scientific relevance of the data or sufficient quality of the proposed methods and procedures, the Commission shall immediately inform the Member State concerned and propose amendments to that programme. Subsequently, the Member State concerned shall submit a revised national programme to the Commission.

3. The Commission shall approve the national programmes and the amendments thereto made in accordance with Article 5(2) on the basis of the evaluation by the STECF and the evaluation of costs carried out by its services.

*Article 7***Evaluation and approval of the outcomes of the national programmes**

1. Member States shall on an annual basis submit to the Commission a report on the carrying out of their national programmes. They shall submit them by the date, in the format and to the address to be established by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

2. The STECF shall evaluate:

- (a) the execution of the national programmes approved by the Commission in accordance with Article 6(3); and
- (b) the quality of the data collected by the Member States.

3. The Commission shall assess the implementation of the national programmes on the basis of:

- (a) the evaluation by the STECF;

- (b) the consultation of appropriate regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is contracting party or observer and relevant international scientific bodies; and

- (c) the evaluation of costs carried out by its services.

*Article 8***Community financial assistance**

1. Community financial assistance for national programmes shall be implemented in accordance with the rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 861/2006.

2. The basic data referred to Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 shall cover only those parts of Member States' national programmes that implement the Community programme.

3. Community financial assistance for national programmes shall only be granted if the rules set out in this Regulation are fully respected.

4. The Commission may, after having afforded the Member States concerned an opportunity of being heard, suspend and/or recover Community financial assistance in the following circumstances:

- (a) the evaluation, referred to in Article 7, indicates that the execution of a national programme does not comply with this Regulation; or
- (b) the consultation referred to Article 7(3)(b) indicates that the data has not been provided by Member States in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 20(1); or
- (c) data quality control and data process were not achieved in accordance with Articles 14(2) and 17.

5. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, the Commission may, after having afforded the Member States concerned an opportunity of being heard, also reduce Community financial assistance in the following circumstances:

- (a) if a national programme was not submitted to the Commission by the date established in accordance with Article 4(4);
- (b) if a report was not submitted to the Commission by the date established in accordance with Article 7(1);

(c) if an official request for data has been made by an end-user and the data was not delivered in accordance with Articles 20(2) and 20(3) to the end-user concerned or the quality control and the processing of these data were not in accordance to Articles 14(2) and 17.

6. The reduction of the Community financial assistance referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be proportionate to the degree of non-compliance. The reduction of the Community financial assistance referred to in paragraph 5 shall be applied gradually over time and shall amount to no more than 25 % of the total annual cost of the national programme.

7. Detailed rules for the application of the reduction referred to in paragraph 6 shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

SECTION 2

Requirements for the data collection process

Article 9

Sampling programmes

1. Member States shall establish multi-annual national sampling programmes.

2. Multi-annual national sampling programmes shall include, in particular:

(a) a sampling design for biological data following fleet-fishery based sampling including, where appropriate, recreational fisheries;

(b) a sampling design for ecosystem data that allows the impact of the fisheries sector on the marine ecosystem to be estimated and that contributes to monitoring of the state of the marine ecosystem;

(c) a sampling design for socio-economic data that permits the economic situation of the fisheries sector to be assessed and enables its performance over time to be analysed, and impact assessments of measures undertaken, or proposed to be carried out.

3. The protocols and the methods used for the establishment of national sampling programmes shall be given by Member States and shall be, as far as possible:

(a) stable over time;

(b) standardised within regions;

(c) in accordance with the quality standards established by the appropriate regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is contracting party or observer and relevant international scientific bodies.

4. Accuracy and precision for the data collected shall be systematically estimated where required.

Article 10

Access to the sampling sites

Member States shall ensure that, in order to carry out their duties, samplers designated by the body in charge of the implementation of the national programme have access to:

(a) all landings, including as appropriate, transshipments and transfers to aquaculture;

(b) vessel and business registers operated by public bodies relevant for the collection of economic data;

(c) economic data of fisheries related businesses.

Article 11

At-sea monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries

1. Where necessary for the purposes of the collection of the data under the national programmes, Member States shall design and implement at-sea monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries.

2. The tasks of the at-sea monitoring shall be determined by the Member States.

3. The masters of Community fishing vessels shall accept on board samplers operating under the at-sea monitoring scheme and designated by the body in charge of the implementation of the national programme and cooperate with them in order to allow them to discharge their duties while on board Community fishing vessels.

4. The masters of Community fishing vessels may refuse to accept on board the samplers operating under the at-sea monitoring scheme only on the basis of an obvious lack of space on the vessel or for safety reasons in accordance with national legislation. In such cases, data shall be collected through a self-sampling programme, carried out by the crew of the Community fishing vessel, and designed and controlled by the body in charge of the implementation of the national programme.

*Article 12***Research surveys at sea**

1. Member States shall carry out research surveys at sea to evaluate the abundance and distribution of stocks, independently of the data provided by commercial fisheries, and to assess the impact of the fishing activity on the environment.

2. The list of research surveys at sea eligible for the Community financial assistance shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

CHAPTER III

DATA MANAGEMENT PROCESS*Article 13***Data storage**

Member States shall:

- (a) ensure that primary data collected under national programmes are safely stored in computerised databases and take all necessary measures to ensure that they are treated as confidential;
- (b) ensure that metadata related to the primary socio-economic data collected under national programmes are safely stored in computerised databases;
- (c) take all necessary technical measures to protect such data against any accidental or illicit destruction, accidental loss, deterioration, distribution or unauthorised consultation.

*Article 14***Data quality control and validation**

1. Member States shall be responsible for the quality and completeness of the primary data collected under national programmes, and for the detailed and aggregated data derived therefrom which are transmitted to end-users.

2. Member States shall ensure that:

- (a) primary data collected under national programmes are properly checked for errors by appropriate quality control procedures;
- (b) detailed and aggregated data derived from primary data collected under national programmes are validated before their transmission to end-users;

- (c) the quality assurance procedures applied to the primary, detailed and aggregated data referred to in (a) and (b) are developed in accordance with the procedures adopted by the international scientific bodies, regional fisheries management organisations and STECF.

CHAPTER IV

USE OF DATA COLLECTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CFP*Article 15***Data covered**

1. This Chapter shall apply to all data collected:

- (a) under Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 788/96, (EC) No 2091/98, (EC) No 104/2000, (EC) No 2347/2002, (EC) No 1954/2003, (EC) No 2244/2003, (EC) No 26/2004, (EC) No 812/2004, (EC) No 1921/2006, (EC) No 1966/2006 and (EC) No 1100/2007;

(b) under the framework of this Regulation:

- (i) data on vessels' activity based on information from satellite monitoring and other monitoring systems with the required format;

- (ii) data allowing the reliable estimation of the total volume of catches per stock by defined regional fishing types and fleet segments, geographical area and time period, including discards and, where appropriate, data regarding catches in recreational fisheries;

- (iii) all biological data needed to assess the status of exploited stocks;

- (iv) ecosystem data needed to evaluate the impact of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem;

- (v) the socio-economic data from the fisheries sector.

2. Member States shall avoid any duplication in the collection of the data referred to in paragraph 1.

*Article 16***Access to and transmission of primary data**

1. For the purpose of the verification of the existence of the primary data collected in accordance with Article 4(1), other than socio-economic data, Member States shall ensure that the Commission has access to the national computerised databases referred to in Article 13(a).

2. For the purpose of the verification of the socio-economic data collected in accordance with Article 4(1) Member States shall ensure that the Commission has access to the national computerised databases referred to in Article 13(b).

3. Member States shall conclude agreements with the Commission to ensure effective and unhindered access for the Commission to their national computerised databases referred to in paragraph 1 and 2, without prejudice to the obligations established by other Community rules.

4. Member States shall ensure that the primary data collected under the research surveys at sea are transmitted to international scientific organisations and appropriate scientific bodies within regional fisheries management organisations in accordance with the international obligations of the Community and the Member States.

Article 17

Processing of primary data

1. Member States shall process the primary data into data sets of detailed or aggregated data in accordance with:

- (a) relevant international standards, wherever they exist;
- (b) protocols agreed at international or regional level, wherever they exist.

2. The Member State shall provide to the end-users and the Commission, whenever necessary, a description of the methods applied to process the requested data and their statistical properties.

Article 18

Submission of detailed and aggregated data

1. Member States shall make detailed and aggregated data available to end-users to support scientific analysis:

- (a) as a basis for advice to fisheries management, including to Regional Advisory Councils;
- (b) in the interest of public debate and stakeholder participation in policy development;
- (c) for scientific publication.

2. Where necessary, to ensure anonymity Member States may refuse to provide data on vessels' activity based on information from vessel satellite monitoring to end-users for the purposes referred to in paragraph 1(b).

Article 19

Transmission of detailed and aggregated data

Member States shall transmit detailed and aggregated data in a secure electronic format.

Article 20

Procedure for transmission of detailed and aggregated data

1. Member States shall ensure that relevant detailed and aggregated data to be sent on a regular basis is provided timely to the appropriate regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is a contracting party or observer and relevant international scientific bodies in accordance with the international obligations of the Community and the Member States.

2. Where detailed and aggregated data are requested for specific scientific analysis, Member States shall ensure that the data is provided to end-users:

- (a) for the purpose referred to in Article 18(1)(a), within one month from the receipt of the request for these data;
- (b) for the purpose referred to in Article 18(1)(b), within two months from the receipt of the request for these data.

3. Where detailed and aggregated data are requested for scientific publication referred to in Article 18(1)(c), Member States:

- (a) may, in order to protect the professional interests of the data collectors, withhold data transmission to the end-users for a period of three years following the date of collection of the data. Member States shall inform the end-users and the Commission of any such decisions. In duly justified cases the Commission may authorise that period to be extended;
- (b) shall in case that three years period has already expired, ensure that the data is provided to end-users within two months from the receipt of the request for these data.

4. Member States may refuse to transmit the relevant detailed and aggregated data only:

- (a) if there is a risk of natural persons and/or legal entities being identified, in which case the Member State may propose alternative means to meet the needs of the end-user which ensure anonymity;
- (b) in the cases referred to in Article 22(3);
- (c) if the same data are already available in another form or format which is easily accessible by end-users.

5. In cases where the data requested by end-users other than appropriate regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is contracting party or observer and relevant international scientific bodies are different from those already provided to appropriate regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is contracting party or observer and relevant international scientific bodies, Member States may charge those end-users the actual costs of extraction and, if required, aggregation of the data before their transmission.

Article 21

Review of refusal to provide data

1. If a Member State refuses to provide data under Article 20(3)(a), the end-user may request the Commission to review the refusal. If the Commission finds that the refusal is not duly justified, it may require the Member State to supply the data to the end-user within one month.
2. If the Member State fails to provide such data within the period laid down in paragraph 1, Article 8 paragraphs 5 and 6 shall apply.

Article 22

Obligations for end-users

1. The end-users of data shall:
 - (a) use the data only for the purpose stated in their request in accordance with Article 18;
 - (b) duly acknowledge the data sources;

(c) be responsible for correct and appropriate use of the data with regard to scientific ethics;

(d) inform the Commission and the Member States concerned of any suspected problems with the data;

(e) provide the Member States concerned and the Commission with references to the results of the use of the data;

(f) not forward the requested data to third parties without consent with the Member State concerned;

(g) not sell the data to any third party.

2. The Member States shall inform the Commission of any non-compliance by end-users.

3. Where an end-user fails to comply with any of the requirements set out in paragraph 1, the Commission may allow the Member State concerned to limit or refuse access to the data to that end-user.

CHAPTER V

SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

Article 23

Participation in meetings of international bodies

Member States shall ensure that their national experts participate in relevant meetings of regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is contracting party or observer and international scientific bodies.

Article 24

Coordination and cooperation

1. Member States and the Commission shall coordinate their efforts and cooperate in order to further improve the reliability of scientific advice, the quality of the work programmes and the working methods of the regional fisheries management organisations to which the Community is contracting party or observer and international scientific bodies.

2. Such coordination and cooperation shall take place without prejudice to open scientific debate and shall aim to promote impartial scientific advice.

CHAPTER VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 25

Implementing measures

The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

Article 26

Monitoring

The Commission, in association with the STECF, shall monitor the progress of the national programmes in the Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture established by Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Committee).

Article 27

Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

3. The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at one month.

Article 28

Repeal

1. Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 is hereby repealed with effect from 1 January 2009. However, the repealed provisions shall remain applicable for national programmes approved before 31 December 2008.

2. Reference to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 29

Entry into force

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

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

Done at Brussels, 25 February 2008.

For the Council
The President
A. VIZJAK

ANNEX

Correlation table

Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000	Regulation (EC) No 199/2008
Article 1	Article 1
Article 2	Article 2
Article 3	Article 3, 4, 5
Article 4	Article 15
Article 5	Article 3, 25
Article 6	Article 4, 8
Article 7	Article 13, 18
Article 8	Article 25, 26
Article 9	Article 27
Article 10	Article 26
Article 11	Article 29