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EU Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries Independent Survey data

Important information and disclaimer on the use of the data

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

This document covers both scientific and legal issues of data use and has been developed jointly by DG MARE and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), based on input provided by the Member States.

Thank you for downloading data from the JRC, that is servicing the DG MARE data calls. These data are collected by the relevant EU Member States, according to the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1004](#). By downloading data from the JRC website, you are **agreeing to the terms and conditions of use** as described in this document, any documents or links referred to in this text and the relevant provisions on the availability of data of [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1004](#).

This document includes a description of the data (Section 2), useful contacts (Section 3), scientific responsibility (Section 4), terms of use (Section 5) and appropriate acknowledgement of the data source in scientific products such as papers / published reports and thesis (Section 6).

Please read this *before* using the downloaded data, as this document contains specific information about the use of the data provided, limitations, and known issues. This document contains contact information regarding the origins of the data, as well as how to cite these data in a publication or a data product.

Note that data download is built on the following national submissions to the DG MARE data calls, which are part of obligations set in the DCF: ES, FR, IT, CY, EL, BG, RO, MT, HR, SI.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA

The data provided constitute the available demersal and acoustic fisheries independent survey data collected under the EU DCF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Region, in the format of the DG MARE Mediterranean and Black Sea data call. These surveys form part of the list of mandatory research surveys at sea as per [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2021/1168 of 27 April 2021](#). The data provided include different surveys identified by name and it is important to note that the data availability is not consistent across all sea basins, Member States or surveys and the survey timing may vary through time and between different Geographical subareas (GSAs). The data are provided and owned by individual Member States and are made available here by the JRC for convenience, as a combined dataset. Still, it is the Member States that retain the responsibility for the completeness and accuracy of the data.

Two types of surveys are considered:

- (1) Demersal trawl surveys (TA = station position and haul covariates, TB = Catch (all species encountered) and length information on measured individuals, TC = biological data based on individual specimens for a selected set of species, usually those used in stock assessments). The following surveys are included under this category: MEDITS, SOLEMON, BTSBS-AUT, BTSBS-SPR, autumn, spring¹;
- (2) Acoustic survey information for selected pelagic species (t_abund_biom = total numbers and biomass at age per GSA, t_abundance = total numbers at length per GSA, t_biomass = total weight at length per GSA). The following surveys are included under this category: MEDIAS, PELMED, ECOMED, BTSBS-AUT, BTSBS-SPR, PTSBS-AUT, PTSBS-SPR, bottom, pelagic².

Spatial coverage bounding box coordinates:

Min. Lat	30° 4' 5.1" N (30.0681°)
Min. Long	6° 1' 57.2" W (-6.0326°)
Max. Lat	47° 22' 35" N (47.3764°)
Max. Long	42° 21' 17.9" E (42.355°)

¹ “BTSBS-SPR” refers to the bottom trawl surveys in the Black Sea carried out in Spring by Bulgaria, “BTSBS-AUT” refers to the bottom trawl surveys in the Black Sea carried out in Autumn by Bulgaria, “spring” refers to the demersal trawl surveys in the Black Sea carried out in Spring by Romania, “autumn” refers to the demersal trawl surveys in the Black Sea carried out in Autumn by Romania

² “PELMED” refers to the French Pelagic surveys, “ECOMED” refers to the old Spanish Acoustic Surveys (until 2008), “PTSBS-SPR” refers to the Pelagic trawl surveys in the Black Sea carried out in Spring by Bulgaria, “PTSBS-AUT” refers to the Pelagic trawl surveys in the Black Sea carried out in Autumn by Bulgaria, “pelagic” refers to the Romanian Pelagic surveys in the Black Sea, “bottom” refers to the Romanian Demersal surveys in the Black Sea

Temporal coverage

The Table below indicates the period and GSA combination for which the Member States have provided consent to publicly release the survey data held in the JRC database for the Mediterranean and Black Sea data.

Table listing the time frame by GSA for which Member States have given permission to release data publicly. MEDITS: International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean; MEDIAS: Pan-Mediterranean Acoustic Survey; SOLEMON: Beam Trawl Survey; BTSBS: Bottom Trawl Survey in Black Sea; PTSBS: Pelagic Trawl Survey in Black Sea³.

MEMBER STATE	SURVEY	GSA(S) COVERED	TIME SERIES
France	MEDITS	7, 8	1994 - CURRENT YEAR
France	MEDIAS	7	2003 - CURRENT YEAR
Italy	MEDITS	9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19	1994 - CURRENT YEAR
Italy	MEDIAS	9, 10, 16, 17, 18	2004 - CURRENT YEAR
Italy	SOLEMON	17	2008 - CURRENT YEAR
Slovenia	SOLEMON	17	2017 - CURRENT YEAR
Slovenia	MEDITS	17	1995 - CURRENT YEAR
Slovenia	MEDIAS	17	2007 - CURRENT YEAR
Croatia	SOLEMON	17	2008 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Croatia	MEDITS	17	2013 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Croatia	MEDIAS	17	2013 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Cyprus	MEDITS	25	2005 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Bulgaria	PTSBS	29	2008 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Bulgaria	BTSBS	29	2008 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Greece	MEDITS	20, 22, 23	1994 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Greece	MEDIAS	22	2003 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Greece	MEDIAS	20	2013 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Malta	MEDITS	15	2000 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Malta	MEDIAS	15	2022 data available in 2026
Romania	BTSBS	29	2008 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Romania	PTSBS	29	2008 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Spain	MEDITS	1, 2, 5, 6	1994 - CURRENT YEAR - 3
Spain	MEDIAS	1, 6	2003 - CURRENT YEAR - 3

If data are required for the last three years (not provided by all Member States), these data need to be requested from the respective National Correspondent.

³ Please note that not all years of data from the various contributors are available here for download. While this table is useful, please be aware that individual years may contain partially completed surveys or be missing entirely due to the inability of a Member State to carry out the survey.

The publicly available survey data set will be updated with an additional year after STECF Winter Plenary. For more information on the planning of STECF meetings, please check here: [STECF & Common Fisheries Policy - European Commission](#)

3. CONTACT FOR SURVEY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

For further questions regarding the surveys, information should, in the first instance, be obtained from the MEDITS manual (when referring to the MEDITS survey ([MEDITS \(sibm.it\)](#))) and the MEDIAS site (when referring to MEDIAS survey ([Home](#))). For Member State-specific questions on the implementation of surveys, please refer to the relevant national contacts as listed below:

- DCF National Correspondents: [General Information - European Commission](#)

More general questions and information relating to the implementation of the DCF can be obtained from the link below:

- DCF website: <https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/index>

4. DATA SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Data from the EU DCF mandatory surveys in the Mediterranean and Black Seas database are freely available for downloading. Whilst the data have been extensively checked by both the supplying institutes in the Member States and STECF, there are inherent issues in the way the information is gathered.

For example:

* Although all surveys are in the same database, there are differences between the surveys that do not allow the combination of data from different surveys in one analysis, unless this point is specifically addressed.

* There is no guarantee that the gears deployed adequately sample all species. It should be realized that each survey gear catches a gear-dependent subset of the fish community in a specific time of the year.

* A common property of all surveys is that over time taxonomy, species determination skills and sampling plans change, which needs to be considered when inferring temporal and spatial changes in distribution. As a result, new taxa may emerge in the dataset that were either not previously reported or reported as part of another closely related taxon.

* Over time, the sampling procedures, gear characteristics, timing of the surveys or the sampling locations may have changed thereby influencing the catches. Expert knowledge and advice are important, in order to prevent bias in the analyses, caused by such factors.

* The same survey name may be found in both the acoustic and demersal tables for the Black Sea area. This is because here the pelagic component is sampled by pelagic trawl surveys (instead of acoustic surveys) and demersal species are provided at the area-aggregated total abundance for assessment purposes.

Thus, users are urged to treat the data with caution. It is the responsibility of the data user to familiarise themselves with the particularities of the data. If the user has any queries on

the validity of the data or the conclusions to be drawn, they should refer to the contacts listed in Section 3, with DG MARE DCF team (MARE-DATACOLLECTIONFRAMEWORK@ec.europa.eu) in copy.

5. TERMS OF USE OF DATA

Data provided from the website are classified as 'Public'.

Please note:

As per Article 20 (EU) 2017/1004, the end users of scientific data and other interested parties shall:

- duly acknowledge the data sources;
- be responsible for correct and appropriate use of the data with regard to scientific ethics;
- inform the Commission and the Member States concerned of any suspected problems with the data;
- provide the Member States concerned and the Commission with references to the results of the use of the data;
- not sell the data to any third party.

6. DATA CITATION

Data sources should be acknowledged by a citation. A minimum requirement citation would include the following: "name of survey, Member State, DCF" and the DOI.