IFDM Recommendation 7 of 17-03-2016
replacing IFDM Recommendation 1 of 11-11-2015

on Fisheries Port and Location Codes

The Fisheries Control Experts Group – ERS (Electronic Recording and reporting System) and Data Management Working group,

Taking into account that:

(1)   Already at the introduction of the ERS for EU fisheries management in 2007, the choice for coding ports was made in favour of UN/LOCODE[1].

(2)   This code list managed by UNECE was initially set up for trade usage, but gradually gained popularity in other domains such as fisheries.

(3)   As more and more location data elements in ERS were referring to UN/LOCODE, the granularity of the code list became insufficient.

(4)   It was therefore decided in the ERS and Data Management Working Group meetings with EU Member States to gather all missing codes and locations, and to propose them to the UNECE for inclusion in the list.

(5)   These inclusions were rejected by UNECE.

(6)   As a result, the UN/LOCODE list does not contain enough locations to cover the EU fisheries management needs and is not sufficient for fisheries control purposes.

(7)   Additionally the full UN/LOCODE list is too large and contains a lot of locations not relevant for EU fisheries management.

Recommends:

1. The Master Data Register (MDR) locations list, published on the Master Data Register page of the European Commission Fisheries website, should remain the primary data source for exchanging location information via ERS.

2. The list should be derived from the UN/LOCODE list 2014-2, but extended with extra codes for smaller locations and landing places that are not on the UN/LOCODE list. Moreover, not all locations from the original UN/LOCODE list 2014-2 should be retained, but only a selection deemed necessary by the relevant EU Member States.

3. The fields "Code", "Fishing port", "Landing place" and "Commercial port" should be added in the MDR locations list.

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[1]   COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1566/2007 of 21 December 2007 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1966/2006 on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities and on means of remote sensing (OJ L 340, 22.12.2007, p. 46–57)

4. The values of the current "LOCODE" field should be copied to "Code". For smaller locations and landing places that are not on the UN/LOCODE list a unique MDR location code should be created with the same format as the other MDR location codes (2 characters for the country code + 3 characters for the location). On request, port codes from third countries could be added, as long as these respect the MDR location format. The current "LOCODE" field should be renamed to "UNLOCODE" and populated with the actual UN/LOCODE codes, if existing.

5. The MDR location code should be used in the domains of fishing activity, landing declarations, sales notes, take-over and transport declarations and inspection reports. Third countries carrying out activities within the EU in the context of fisheries should use the MDR locations code for all data exchanges with the EU.

6. After any UN/LOCODE update cycle the modified "UNLOCODE" data should be updated. The MDR location code should remain unchanged.