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<b>Document title</b>	Data availability and possible pilot projects to collect data
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### Background

This document includes data availability and possible pilot projects to collect data from incidental catches or data regarding fisheries impact on the sea bottom (ESTONIA, GERMANY, POLAND, SWEDEN) (HELCOM FISH 7-2017 document 5-2).

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note and use the information.

Annex 1 Data availability and possible pilot projects to collect data from incidental catches or data regarding fisheries impact on the sea bottom.

**ESTONIA:**

<b>Country: ESTONIA</b>	please specify data, time frame and collection method (e.g., observer, VMS, logbook, cameras) and % coverage with respect to fishing effort	utilised/planned funding source
1. What kind of data regarding impact of fisheries on marine environment have been collected in your country already?		Baltic MPAs - Marine protected areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea  LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100
a) Impact on the sea bottom	Fisheries impact sea bottom almost only through the bottom trawling (mainly flatfish and cod fishery). In Estonia there is almost no bottom trawling at all. Therefore fisheries impacts to sea bottom in Estonia are negligible.	
b) Incidental bycatch of protected species (e.g., mammals, birds, elasmobranchs)	1) Incidental bycatch of water birds and seals was investigated in 2005-2009 in the framework of the LIFE project (LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100). The study collected data from commercial fishermen and the total Estonian bycatch was extrapolated based on the logbook data.  2) Incidental bycatch of seals was investigated in the framework of INTERREG IV A "Balancing between sustainable seal population management and fisheries" (ECOSEAL) 2012-2013. The study collected data from commercial fishermen and the total Estonian bycatch was extrapolated based on the logbook data.	

2. Any pilot projects to collect additional information about incidental catches of protected species planned under DCF or outside DCF?	Concerning ringed seal:  planned LIFE project “Enhance conservation of southern Baltic ringed seals”  Application will be submitted in Sept 2017. Planned duration 2018-2022.	
a) Which species (species groups) should be covered in your country?	Grey seal, ringed seal, water birds (especially diving ducks – highest bycatch according to the existing data: long-tailed duck)	
b) which fishing metiér should be covered in your country?	Gill nets – waterbirds  Fyke nets – seals	
3. Any projects planned to study impact of fisheries on the sea bottom?	No	
4. What is the estimated cost of the monitoring programs/projects under nr. 1-3 above?	It is hard to say the exact estimate cost, because it is related with the number of fishermen engaged to the programs (in Estonia there should be at least 40-50 fishermen included so the survey would be statistically reliable).  If you would like to make a survey to study both seals and waterbirds, then the survey should last for 3 years and would cost approximately 200 000€.	

**GERMANY:**

<b>Country: -Germany</b>	please specify data, time frame and collection method (e.g., observer, VMS, logbook, cameras) and % coverage with respect to fishing effort	utilised/planned funding source
1. What kind of data regarding impact of fisheries on marine environment have been collected in your country already?		
a) Impact on the sea bottom	VMS & Logbook data are delivered in anonymized and aggregated format to ICES. Only data from vessels larger than 12 meter (VMS) resp. 8 meter (Logbook) are available.	DC-MAP
b) Incidental bycatch of protected species (e.g., mammals, birds, elasmobranchs)	Observations of bycaught individuals of all relevant species are collected during the onboard sampling program.	DC-MAP
2. Any pilot projects to collect additional information about incidental catches of protected species planned under DCF or outside DCF?	One objective of an actual 3-years project (STELLA, 2016-2019), carried out by the Thünen Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries, is to achieve improved fisheries effort and bycatch data for selected métiers (gill and trammel nets) in the German Baltic. <a href="https://www.thuenen.de/en/of/projects/fisheries-environment-baltic-sea/gill-net-fisheries-development-of-alternative-management-approaches-stella/">https://www.thuenen.de/en/of/projects/fisheries-environment-baltic-sea/gill-net-fisheries-development-of-alternative-management-approaches-stella/</a>	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
a) Which species (species groups) should be covered in your country?	Marine mammals and seabird species.	
b) which fishing metiér should be covered in your country?	Passive gears (Gill and trammel nets)	

3. Any projects planned to study impact of fisheries on the sea bottom?	None	
4. What is the estimated cost of the monitoring programs/projects under nr. 1-3 above?	For the relevant part of the above mentioned pilot project ca 250,000 Euro.	

## POLAND:

<b>Country: -----</b>	please specify data, time frame and collection method (e.g., observer, VMS, logbook, cameras) and % coverage with respect to fishing effort	utilised/planned funding source
1. What kind of data regarding impact of fisheries on marine environment have been collected in your country already?	<p><b>On a regular basis:</b> Since 2006 data on by-catch of harbor porpoises under Reg. 812/2004. It includes also observations of protected fish species, bird by-catch and seals, observer coverage of set nets (various form year to year around 3% yearly – fishing effort - days at sea).</p> <p><b>Irregular data collection:</b> from various projects.</p>	National budget/ EU-MAP/other financial sources
a) Impact on the sea bottom	Project COST-IMPACT 2001-2003. Analysis of bottom trawling activity in the Gulf of Gdansk. Assessment of the influence of bottom trawling on the nutrient fluxes, analysis of changes in bottom fauna (macrofauna and meiofauna) was studied.	Funded under the European Union Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources programme
b) Incidental bycatch of protected species (e.g., mammals, birds, elasmobranchs)	<p>Except for a regular monitoring under regulation 812/2004, there was a project studying bird by-catch: Monitoring of bird by-catch for sustainable management of coastal fishery in Natura 2000 sites in Polish marine waters.</p> <p>Monitoring of bird by-catches has been carried out in years 2014-2015 in Puck Bay, Szczecin and Kamienski Lagoon and Pomeranian Bay. Monitoring coverage: 1,2% for Puck Bay, 5,6% for Szczecin and Kamienski Lagoon and not assessed for the Pomeranian Bay. Only vessels below 12 m took part in a project. On board observers and cameras were used as well as questionnaires with fishermen. Fishing effort (net length and days at sea: in 1000 NMD) was estimated on a basis of critical review of the Polish Fisheries Monitoring Centre data by the NMFRI<sup>1</sup> experts</p>	European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013

<sup>1</sup> NMFRI \_National Marine Fisheries Research Institute

2. Any pilot projects to collect additional information about incidental catches of protected species planned under DCF or outside DCF?	No additional pilot program except for the pilot program under Reg. 812/2004.	National budget/EU-MAP
a) Which species (species groups) should be covered in your country?	Sea mammals (three species of Baltic seals), harbor porpoise, marine bird species (mostly long-tail ducks, grebes, loons, razorbills and guillemots), fish species: Atlantic sturgeon, lampreys, Alosa sp.	
b) which fishing metiér should be covered in your country?	Passive gears in coastal areas	
3. Any projects planned to study impact of fisheries on the sea bottom?	No	
4. What is the estimated cost of the monitoring programs/projects under nr. 1-3 above?	Depends on a project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular monitoring under Reg. 812/2004, low coverage of set nets. Cost around 63000 Euro/year.</li> <li>• COST-IMPACT</li> </ul> Total around: 102699€ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project assessing birds' by-catch 848 000 PLN (about 200 473 Euro)</li> </ul>	National budget/EU MAP, EFF 2007-2013/other financial sources

**SWEDEN:**

<b>Country: -----</b>	please specify data, time frame and collection method (e.g., observer, VMS, logbook, cameras) and % coverage with respect to fishing effort	utilised/planned funding source
1. What kind of data regarding impact of fisheries on marine environment have been collected in your country already?		
a) Impact on the sea bottom	<p>Data on benthic communities</p> <p>Data on fishing impact (effort, swept area estimates..) based on logbooks, VMS (vessels &gt;=12 m)</p>	<p>National funding</p> <p>DCF (analysis of VMS, logbook data)</p>
b) Incidental bycatch of protected species (e.g., mammals, birds, elasmobranchs)	Data on all species (included protected) is collected during our observer programme within DCF. Observer programme is however focusing on active gears (trawls). Coverage is approx. 0,5-1%.	DCF
2. Any pilot projects to collect additional information about incidental catches of protected species planned under DCF or outside DCF?	<p>Pilot project 2017 with observers on vessels with passive gear in the Baltic. Project have primarily been focusing on gillnet fishery targeting cod. Plan for continuation 2018 covering to cover other gillnets as well and if possible target risk areas.</p> <p>National project on by-catches generate some data/information but are presently primarily focusing on measures to avoid by-catches.</p>	<p>DCF</p> <p>National funding</p>

	Data on net length and soaking time partly available through logbooks.	
a) Which species (species groups) should be covered in your country?	Data is collected for all encountered species (protected and not protected). Encounters of protected species are however rare. DCF observers schemes have multipurposes. If samplings schemes should be targeted towards specific species this need to be agreed with the relevant end-users.	
b) which fishing metiér should be covered in your country?	Metiers to be covered are dependent on purpose and species (species groups) of interest. For by-catches of birds and mammals are passive gears of interest.	
3. Any projects planned to study impact of fisheries on the sea bottom?	Project to study response of epifauna to bottom trawling gradients	National funding
4. What is the estimated cost of the monitoring programs/projects under nr. 1-3 above?		