



Document title	Commercial fish list acc. ICES regional approach 1
Code	4-2
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Agenda Item	4 – List of commercial fish species
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Submitted by	Sweden
Reference	Document 4-1

Background

To support the assessment of fish, in particular for HOLAS III purposes there is a need to define which species should be included under the assessment of coastal fish (and/or non-commercial fish) and which as commercial fish. This is especially relevant for commercial fish, which is an assessment topic not hosted directly within a HELCOM Expert Group and thus a focus of this Workshop.

[Document 4-1](#) to ComFish WS contained a *first draft* of such a list based on different sources within HELCOM. The purpose of that document was to clarify achievements so far in the process to develop a regional list of commercial fish in HELCOM. As further elaborated in Document 4-1, the first draft list was based on document 4J-15 submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021, slightly updated based on information from FISH-PRO III, cross-checked with the HELCOM Checklist 2.0 of Baltic Sea Macrospecies and completed with information from the HELCOM Red List of species.

The content of Document 4-1, was also submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 as [document 3J-95](#), with the aim to collect national positions in relation to the [ICES Special Request Advice](#)¹ prior to ComFish WS.

The further development of a regional species list of commercial fish is a key task of ComFish WS, and the work will thereafter be considered at STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 during 4-8 October.

As additional information to ComFish WS, Sweden has prepared a list of commercial fish species, as it would look like if derived based on the Approach 1 of the table 4 from the ICES Special Request Advice. The list is presented in this document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- [Use the information](#) provided to [discuss](#) the way forward to establish the list of commercial fish species

¹ EU request for advice on developing appropriate lists for Descriptor 3, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, for reporting by EU Member States under MSFD Article 17 in 2024

Commercial fish list acc. ICES regional approach 1

Iteration of the ICES Special request advice

ICES advises that, for EU Member States (MSs) considering MSFD Descriptor 3 (D3) lists for reporting, standardisation and clear guidance from the EC on the overall approach taken are prerequisites to delivering the coordination sought. In its elaboration on the advice, ICES describes and contrasts the general characteristics of four different overall approaches used by MSs in their 2018 reporting. In summary, ICES considers these four approaches to cover the range of options that meet the reporting requirements and advises that one of these is selected by the EC to be used as standard by all MSs in their 2024 reporting on D3 under Article 17 of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

In accordance with previous ICES advice, ICES advises that the selection of stocks should be based on a regional rather than a MS level, and that widely distributed stocks are included in those areas where they occur. Therefore, **ICES advises that MSs should report not only on catches of their national fleets, but on catches of all operations occurring in their national waters.**

ICES reiterates its 2016 advice that **the total landings of stocks selected for reporting should represent a very high proportion (by weight) of the landings** (e.g. > 90%). In addition, ICES advises that, in cases where stocks represent a small proportion of the total weight of landings but generate relatively **high revenues**, an additional threshold, based on commercial value, should be used to select species/stocks for D3 reporting. Weight and commercial value thresholds should be established and standardised at an EU level.

To ensure that widely distributed stocks are not omitted through the screening process, ICES advises that a subsequent threshold is established, based on the percentage of contribution caught in the relevant marine reporting units (MRUs) of the total international landings for the widely distributed species/stock, is established. This threshold should also be standardised at an EU level.

ICES considers that the reporting **MSs are best placed to identify locally important species/stocks** for reporting under MSFD D3 and recommends that reporting for shared/internationally assessed stocks should be prepared at a European level to avoid duplication by each MS.

Further, ICES reviewed the lists of commercially exploited fish and shellfish used by MSs in their 2018 MSFD Article 17 reporting under D3 and proposes the addition (or expansion of the geographical reporting) of 52 species to the list of commercially exploited fish and shellfish (ReferenceList D3) for the 2024 MSFD reporting cycle.

Data sources and data preparation

The draft commercial fish species list was prepared following Table 1 Column **Approach 1** in ICES Advice, which states that “MSs use all species/stocks referred to in Specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment of Decision 2017/848 for the MSFD (sub)region within which the MRU* is located”. By this approach, ICES evaluates the potential for commercial stocks to be omitted is assessed as **low**, and the Potential to Facilitates EU- and/or MRU-wide coordination (Article 6), including the implementation of the Article 13 programme of measures using the Common Fisheries Policy as **high**.

Data for identifying the species were retrieved from the JRC/STECF database on Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI), which was stated by ICES Special Request Advice as a reasonable approximation for the Atlantic, and the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. Data covering years 2015-2019 are available for downloading to the extent provided by EU Member States in the context of the 2020 DCF Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI) data call ([link to report](#)). Non-EU data are not present in the FDI database.

Fisheries data were downloaded at: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dd/fdi> (see also [Metadata](#)). The database includes information on landings as total live weight (tonnes) and as total value (euro) by species and subregion. Data points representing ICES sub-divisions 22, 24-32 were selected (for map, see Annex 1). Landings per species were summarized over the time interval 2015-2019.

For comparison with a slightly longer time scale, data covering years 2003-2016 were used, as available from the 2017 DCF Fishing Effort Regimes data call², downloaded at: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dd/effort> (see also [Metadata](#)). The two data sets are, however, not directly comparable, since the older data set was adjusted to follow up the previous effort regulations. The Fishing Effort Regimes data includes information on landings as weight in tonnes. Data for statistical rectangles within ICES Subdivisions 22, 24-32 were selected (for map, see Annex 1). Landings per species were summarized over the time interval 2003-2016.

The results of the evaluation are summarized in Tables 1-2.

² Zanzi, Antonella; Holmes, Steven (2017): Fisheries data from DCF Fishing Effort Regimes data calls. European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) [Dataset] PID: <http://data.europa.eu/89h/9f8002cc-c6fc-4adb-86cd-466f935a7bda>

Further considerations

Table 1 shows an initial draft list of commercial fish species representative for the Baltic Sea ecoregion (ICES SD 22, 24-32), as it would look like if derived based on the Approach 1 of the table 4 from the ICES Special Request Advice. The table also includes other information of potential relevance for the final selection, based on the additional data series for 2003-2016 (also described above) and document 4-1.

The initial draft list presented in Table 1, further, is based on the decision points presented below and which need to be considered by the Workshop.

Overall decision points

to be discussed, modified if needed, and agreed on

1. Species included in the top 98% of landings by weight during 2015-2019, or during 2003-2016 are included
2. Species included in the top 95% of landings by value during 2015-2019 are included
3. Lack of data or assessments is not a reason for omitting species from the list, if they meet any of decision points 1-2

More specific decision points

to be discussed, modified if needed, and agreed on

4. The calculation of proportion of landings only considers information that can be clearly linked to a species. Hence, landings reported at higher taxonomic level than genus are not included, as it is not possible to clearly identify which species they should be referred to, e.g. landings reported at the level of "Finfishes_nei", "Pelagic_fishes_nei"
5. Landings reported at genus level are potentially included, provided that it can be agreed in each case which species they most likely represent
 - o SAN; *Ammodytes*_spp; Sandeels(=Sandlances)_nei; suggestion: Small sandeel (*A. tobianus*)
6. Landings of non-indigenous species (NIS) are not included, as any potential good status of NIS should not contribute to the status assessment of D3, and as any potential poor status of NIS should not motivate management actions with reference to D3
7. Species included under HELCOM red list categories "Critically endangered" (CR), "Endangered" (EN), "Vulnerable" (VU) or "Near threatened" (NT) should be included in the overall assessment, but it **should be decided** if they are to be included under D3 or under D1.

Table 1. Species identified as contributing up to 99.9% of the reported weight of landings 2015-2019 in SD 22, 24-32. The table also includes other information of potential relevance for deciding on as regional list for commercial fish, in relation to criteria indicated in the main text. Species meeting the tentatively suggested criteria are highlighted in bold.

Scientific name	Species name	Landings by weight 2015-2019 (tonnes)	Acc.% weight 2015-2019	Contributed to 98% of landings 2003-2016	Contributed to 95 % of value in 2015-2019	HELCOM Red List	Covered by ICES advice
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Atlantic_herring	1681617	49,8	YES	YES	LC	YES
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	European_sprat	1227026	86,2	YES	YES	NA	YES
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Atlantic_cod	138984	90,3	YES	YES	EN	YES
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Blue_mussel	108714	93,5	YES	YES		
<i>Platichthys flesus</i>	European_flounder	83565	96,0	YES	YES	NA	YES
<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	European_smelt	17672	96,5		YES	NA	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	European_plaice	17327	97,0		YES	NA	YES
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	European_perch	16147	97,5		YES		
<i>Ammodytes spp</i>	Sandeels(=Sandlances)_nei	15268	98,0	YES			
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Roach	9225	98,3			NA	
<i>Coregonus albula</i>	Vendace	7988	98,5		YES		
<i>Abramis brama</i>	Freshwater_bream	7384	98,7			NA	
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	Common_dab	5795	98,9			NA	YES
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	4650	99,0			VU	
<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Round_goby	4196 (NIS)	99,1				
<i>Sander lucioperca</i>	Pike_perch	3984	99,3		YES	NA	
<i>Coregonus lavaretus</i>	European_whitefish	2583	99,3		YES	EN	
<i>Belone belone</i>	Garfish	2462	99,4			NA	
<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic_salmon	2340	99,5		YES	VU	YES
<i>Abramis spp</i>	Freshwater_breams_nei	2218	99,5				
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European_eel	1760	99,6		YES	CR	YES
<i>Esox lucius</i>	Northern_pike	1748	99,6			NA	
<i>Myoxocephalus quadricornis</i>	Fourhorn_sculpin	1355	99,7				
<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>	Turbot	1274	99,7			NT	
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Sea_trout	1250	99,8		YES	VU	
<i>Ammodytes tobianus</i>	Small_sandeel	1080	99,8			LC	YES
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	Three_spined_stickleback	738	99,8				
<i>Vimba vimba</i>	Vimba_bream	653	99,8				
<i>Gasterosteus spp</i>	Sticklebacks	624	99,9				
<i>Coregonus spp</i>	Whitefishes_nei	458	99,9				
<i>Hyperoplus lanceolatus</i>	Great_sandeel	397	99,9			NA	YES
<i>Zoarces viviparus</i>	Eelpout	362	99,9				
<i>Leuciscus idus</i>	Orfe(=Ide)	329	99,9				
<i>Blicca bjoerkna</i>	White_bream	278	99,9				
<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	Lumpfish(=Lumpsucker)	253	99,9			NT	
<i>Carassius carassius</i>	Crucian_carp	243	99,9				
<i>Lota lota</i>	Burbot	243	99,9				

Myoxocephalus_scorpis	Shorthorn_sculpin	242	99,9				
Solea_solea	Common_sole	234	99,9			NA	YES

Table 2. Additional information on species contributing to 99% of the reported value in landings 2015-2019 in SD 22, 24-32

Scientific name	English name	Sum value 2015_2019 (EUR)	%	Acc. %
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Atlantic_herring	400040116	36,69	36,69
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	European_sprat	254962099	23,39	60,08
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Atlantic_cod	168654746	15,47	75,55
<i>Platichthys flesus</i>	European_flounder	35695888	3,27	78,83
<i>Coregonus albula</i>	Vendace	35173944	3,23	82,05
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	European_perch	32582467	2,99	85,04
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	European_plaice	24334888	2,23	87,27
<i>Sander lucioperca</i>	Pike_perch	19659911	1,80	89,08
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European_eel	19023206	1,74	90,82
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Blue_mussel	14650263	1,34	92,17
<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic_salmon	11325580	1,04	93,20
<i>Coregonus lavaretus</i>	European_whitefish	10749726	0,99	94,19
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Sea_trout	7806020	0,72	94,91
<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	European_smelt	6558349	0,60	95,51
<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>	Turbot	6039416	0,55	96,06
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	Common_dab	5102663	0,47	96,53
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Roach	5075266	0,47	97,00
<i>Abramis brama</i>	Freshwater_bream	4689977	0,43	97,43
<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Round_goby	3122076	0,29	97,71
<i>Esox lucius</i>	Northern_pike	3121988	0,29	98,00
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common_sole	3054561	0,28	98,28
<i>Ammodytes spp</i>	Sandeels(=Sandlances)_nei	2830295	0,26	98,54
<i>Belone belone</i>	Garfish	2083559	0,19	98,73
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	2025014	0,19	98,91
<i>Coregonus spp</i>	Whitefishes_nei	1997733	0,18	99,10

Annex 1

Location of sub-divisions referred to in the document. Figure source: FAO

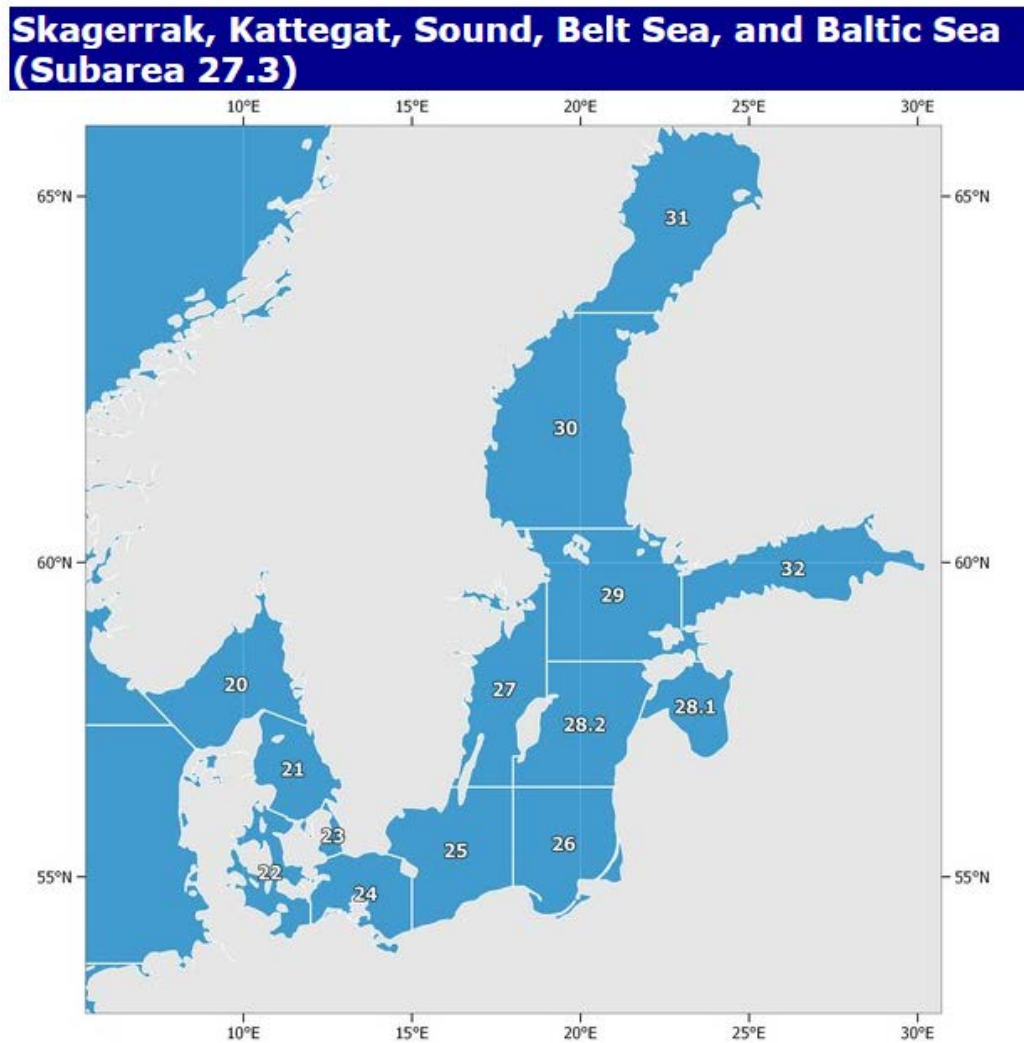


Fig. 3, map of the Baltic Sea showing the subdivisions of the Belt, the Sound, and the Baltic for the reporting of catch statistics.