



Document title	Reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under Fish Group
Code	3-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3 – Implementation and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	29.05.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of FISH 9-2019, para 3.9

Background

The following HELCOM Recommendations were tentatively agreed by HOD 55-2018 Meeting to be reported by the Fish group:

- 19/2, Protection and Improvement of the Wild Salmon*) (Salmo salar L.) Populations in the Baltic Sea Area
- 32-33/1, Conservation of Baltic Salmon (Salmo salar) and Sea Trout (Salmo trutta) Populations by the Restoration of their River Habitats and Management of River Fisheries
- 37/3, Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

The Fish Group agreed to report on these Recommendations and also to include in the reporting the following recommendation:

- 25/4, Measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from Water and Marine Fish Farming

The attached document contains an overview of the reporting by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. However, the reporting is still not complete from all these countries and the reporting by two countries is missing fully. **The document may be revised if more information is reported by the Contracting Parties.** Also, the validation of the references for the recommended actions that have been reported accomplished is partly still ongoing. For some of the actions that were reported accomplished, the reference or additional information to justify the accomplishment is missing. Countries are encouraged to submit the missing information to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

This document contains a summary of the received responses to the reporting. Summary tables of the implementation status of the Recommendations by country are included as Annex 1. All answers and additional information reported by the countries are included in the Excel table in document 3-2-Att.1.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the reporting results and clarify any remaining uncertainties in evaluation of implementation;
- agree on the evaluation of implementation of the HELCOM Recommendations; and
- discuss the possibility to implement remaining recommended actions by 2021.

Overview of reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under Fish Group

The following HELCOM Recommendations were tentatively agreed by HOD 55-2018 Meeting to be reported by the Fish group:

- 19/2, Protection and Improvement of the Wild Salmon* (*Salmo salar* L.) Populations in the Baltic Sea Area
- 32-33/1, Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) Populations by the Restoration of their River Habitats and Management of River Fisheries
- 37/3, Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

The Fish Group agreed to report on these Recommendations and also to include in the reporting the following recommendation:

- 25/4, Measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from Water and Marine Fish Farming

The Contracting Parties were invited to answer if each recommended action in the Recommendations were accomplished. Paragraphs recommending joint regional actions were not included in the reporting. Also, actions regarding monitoring and actions that were not considered concrete enough to follow-up were left out of the reporting template.

Answers were received from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. However, the reporting is still not complete from all these countries and the reporting by two countries is missing fully. Also, the validation of the references for reported accomplished actions is partly still ongoing.

Level of implementation

The implementation of the Recommendations by country is included in Annex 1 and all answers and additional information reported by the countries are included in the Excel table in document 3-2 Att.1.

19/2 Protection and Improvement of the Wild Salmon* (*Salmo salar* L.) Populations in the Baltic Sea Area

Two countries reported that the Recommendation is implemented and two reported that the recommended actions are mostly not applicable since there are no original salmon populations in these countries. Three countries reported that the implementation is ongoing or that all information is not available.

25/4 Measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from Water and Marine Fish Farming

One country reported that all recommended actions are implemented. There were many missing references for some countries and the validation of references is still ongoing.

32-33/1 Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) Populations by the Restoration of their River Habitats and Management of River Fisheries

One country reported that the Recommendation is fully implemented.

There were different interpretations for the actions "To prioritise the restoration of habitats of rivers that hold original salmon and sea trout populations that reproduce at a level of less than 50 % of PSpC and to apply a set of strict fishing rules for the management of river fisheries when the targeted salmon or sea trout populations reproduce at a level of less than 20 % of PSpC". One option would be to split the reporting of this action into two questions to make it easier to report more precisely.

37/3 Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

The implementation of the Recommendation is varied between the countries. No country reported that they have accomplished the recommended action "in areas where the water quality status is deteriorated and

where ecologically possible, aquaculture that contributes to improving the status of the aquatic environment should be encouraged. The promotion of such aquaculture systems should not deter from measures to address nutrient input close to source”.

Annex 1. Implementation of HELCOM Recommendations under Fish Group

19/2 Protection and Improvement of the Wild Salmon*) (*Salmo salar* L.) Populations in the Baltic Sea Area

Recommended action	DK	EE	FI	DE	LV	LT	PL	RU	SE
a) to undertake all necessary measures feasible to improve the environmental conditions in present and potential salmon rivers to facilitate future natural reproduction of salmon. Such measures can be improvement of water quality and quantity, restoration of rearing habitats, removal of man-made mechanical obstacles or by other measures facilitating salmon migration;	Not applicable	Yes	Yes		On-going	Yes	Not applicable		On-going
b) not to build any new, permanent or temporary, mechanical obstacles that can prevent migration in salmon rivers <i>(Question: Have any new, permanent or temporary, mechanical obstacles been built that can prevent salmon migration in rivers?)</i>	Not applicable	No	No		No	No information	No		No
c) to take action in close cooperation with ICES to accelerate the investigations on the causes and the effects of M74;	Not applicable	Yes	Yes		No	No	No		Yes
d) to decide, or, where appropriate, invite IBSFC to declare, by taking up recent resolutions of IBSFC and ICES advice, a temporary moratorium/temporary time and area closures on commercial and recreational fishing directed on threatened wild salmon populations in coastal waters and rivers as well as in the Baltic open sea areas. Only incidental by-catches of wild salmon in those areas are accepted. This temporary moratorium/these temporary time and area closures should be reconsidered annually based on scientific advice	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No		Yes
f) to carry out reestablishment activities in potential salmon rivers or necessary enhancement in present salmon rivers with individuals of appropriate populations, preferably of wild origin;	Not applicable	Yes	Yes		No	Yes	No		No

<p>g) to stop, taking into account possible legally binding decisions, inappropriate river, coastal or delayed releases of reared salmon, unless scientific evaluation indicates that the risk of negative genetic or other impacts on wild salmon is low. The releases of reared salmon should be carefully monitored and their genetic or other impact on wild salmon evaluated by scientists. Results of tagging experiments from coastal and delayed releases carried out by the Contracting Parties should be elaborated and reports should be presented as soon as possible,</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>		<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>On-going</p>		<p>On-going</p>
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25/4 Measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from Water and Marine Fish Farming

Recommended action	DK	EE	FI	DE	LV	LT	PL	RU	SE
the following measures of BAT and BEP should be used in marine and fresh water fish farming (excluding small land based fish farms with a production not exceeding 1000 kg fish/year and fish ponds using natural fertility):									
1. Plant operation, feeding methods and fish feed, predominantly dry, which cause minimum nutrient discharges and improve fish health and fish quality, should be used and developed.	Yes		Yes		No	No information	On-going		Not applicable
2. New types of fish farms and methods for sludge removal in fish farms should be developed and introduced so as to decrease the discharges of nutrients, organic matters and chemicals.	Yes		Yes		Yes	No information	Yes		Yes
3. The number of fish in a certain water volume should be set/balanced according to water exchange rate, aeration and feeding method in order to prevent water pollution including eutrophication as well as fish diseases; dead fish should be collected as soon as possible.	Yes		Yes		No	No	On-going		Not applicable
4. Fish farming should be subject to permits or prior regulations by the competent authority or appropriate body in accordance with the following principles:	Yes		Yes		No	Yes	Yes		Yes
a) limits to phosphorus and/or nitrogen discharges should be given in permits or prior regulations. Limits might also be expressed as maximum amounts of phosphorus and/or nitrogen in feed or maximum allowable feed consumption;	Yes		Yes		No	No information	Yes		Yes
b) future environmental effects of the proposed installation should be evaluated as part of the authorization process for intensive fish farms;	Yes		Yes		No	No information	Yes		Yes
c) permits and regulations should be reviewed at appropriate intervals taking into account existing permit conditions	Yes		Yes		No	No information	Yes		Yes

5. In all fresh water and marine fish farms nutrient discharges should not exceed the annual average specified in the recommendation.	Yes		On-going		No	No information	No		Yes
6. Regional planning should be employed as an instrument for directing fish farming activities to suitable areas and mitigating conflicts between fish farming and other uses of the water area. Fish farms should not be placed in areas reserved for nature protection, if that might conflict with the aims of protection. Sites of fish farms should be selected and discharges from them restricted by means of objective environmental impact evaluation methods in accordance with the holding capacity of the aquatic environment affected.	Yes		Yes		No information	On-going	On-going		No
7. The discharges from and the ecological effects of fish farms should be adequately supervised by competent authority or appropriate body, e.g. by means of fish farm operation records, discharge calculations, monitoring and environmental impact models. The monitoring should focus on measuring reliably and cost-effectively the impacts of fish farming on the eutrophication status, oxygen depletion and the state of the sediments in the affected area.	Yes		Yes		No information	No information	On-going		Not applicable
8. The use of bioactive chemicals and drugs at fish farms should be officially approved and effectively controlled to minimize hazards to the environment. The prophylactic use of chemicals should be avoided. Washing or drying of net cages should be used instead of application of toxic compounds. It is suggested to encourage the use of biological means to reduce the application of chemicals. The use of vaccination should be promoted.	Yes		Yes		Yes	No information	Yes		Yes
9. The transfer of cultivated fish and introduction of new species should be undertaken according to the Recommendations of EIFAC and ICES thus avoiding the possible negative effects. The interaction between	Yes		Yes		Yes	No information	On-going		Yes

cultured and wild fish should be avoided to protect the locally adapted stock									
10. Waste or waste water resulting from the handling and processing of fish should be treated, disposed of and utilized so as not to cause pollution of the Baltic Sea, surface or ground water.	Yes		Yes		Yes	No information	Yes		Yes
11. The cooperation between the aquaculture industry and the authorities should be intensified including an elaboration of the following instruments:	Yes		Yes		Yes	No information	No		Yes

32-33/1 Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) Populations by the Restoration of their River Habitats and Management of River Fisheries

Recommended action	DK	EE	FI	DE	LV	LT	PL	RU	SE
1. To take urgent measures for the recovery of the original salmon and sea trout populations that reproduce at a level of less than 50 % of the potential smolt production capacity (PSPC). The list of original salmon populations that based on recent smolt production data reproduce at a level of less than 50 % of PSPC are listed in Annex 1.	On-going	Yes	Yes		On-going	Yes	On-going		On-going
2. To make assessments of man-made migration hindrances for salmon or sea trout. The assessments should be made for the historical distribution areas of salmon and sea trout in the river systems and cover the feasibility of removing the hindrances, providing fishways and/or transporting fish over them or of enhancing the functioning of current fishways. Passage through the rivers for salmon and sea trout should be provided where the results of the assessment justifies it. The assessment may include elements such as cost-efficiency of the options, estimated natural smolt production, options for improving accessibility (e.g. fishways or transport of spawners/smolt), effects on existing fish populations, mortality during up- and downstream migration and migration behaviour. The assessment should where necessary include a mapping of the quantity and quality of suitable spawning and nursery areas.	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		On-going
3. Where justified following assessments under point 2 to re-establish the original salmon populations of Dalälven, Iijoki, Indalsälven, Ljusnan, Luleälven, Skellefteälven and Ångermanälven into their native rivers and to open migratory routes for salmon and sea trout to historical reproduction areas of the rivers Kemijoki, Kymijoki and Oulujoki. <i>(For Finland and Sweden only)</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Yes		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		No
4. To take action for the restoration of river waters and habitats that hold naturally reproducing salmon	On-going	Yes	Yes		On-going	Yes	On-going		Yes

and sea trout populations towards a salmonid habitat in good state with the following characteristics ...									
5. To develop fishing rules for the management of river fisheries through a participatory and open process that includes local stakeholders. To apply a set of effective and proportionate fishing rules in the management of river fisheries based on inter alia the following elements: ...	Yes	Yes	No		Yes	No information	Yes		Yes
6. To prioritise the restoration of habitats of rivers that hold original salmon and sea trout populations that reproduce at a level of less than 50 % of PSPC and to apply a set of strict fishing rules for the management of river fisheries when the targeted salmon or sea trout populations reproduce at a level of less than 20 % of PSPC (cf. Annex 1).	No	Yes	Not applicable		Yes	No information	Yes		Yes
7. That a natural life cycle of original salmon and sea trout populations is ensured and that stocking for enhancement purposes is conducted on a temporary basis until natural reproduction reaches stable levels and are based on original strains or if not available on nearby populations with genetic proximity and similar ecological conditions.	Ongoing	Yes	No		Yes	Yes	Yes		Ongoing

37/3 Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

Recommended action	DK	EE	FI	DE	LV	LT	PL	RU	SE
8. to make better use or establish and maintain national databases of aquaculture or water permits and monitoring data in co-operation with the aquaculture sector. A better assessment of the nutrient loads from aquaculture should be based on data collected and reported to the HELCOM PLC database	Yes		Yes		No	No information	On-going		Yes
9. to develop specific measures aimed at reduction/mitigation/prevention, as appropriate, of nutrient release into the Baltic Sea, which have to be implemented simultaneously with the growth of fish production, consistent with measures foreseen in the national aquaculture development strategy	Yes		Yes		No	No information	On-going		On-going
10. to avoid the use of genetically modified species <i>(Question: Are genetically modified species used in aquaculture in your country?)</i>	No		No		No information	No information	No		No
11. to ensure that the use of hormones does not impact the environment negatively	Yes		No information		No information	Yes	No information		Yes
12. in areas where the water quality status is deteriorated and where ecologically possible, aquaculture that contributes to improving the status of the aquatic environment should be encouraged. The promotion of such aquaculture systems should not deter from measures to address nutrient input close to source	On-going		No		No	No information	No information		On-going