



Document title	Questionnaire on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques
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Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	6 – Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems
Submission date	21.04.2017
Submitted by	Poland
Reference	Outcome of the HELCOM FISH 5/2016 meeting (par. 5.10-5.14)

Background

The meeting HELCOM FISH 5/2016 considered Questionnaire on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques submitted by Poland, and recalled that the background for this information gathering was to compile a list of equipment which can be selected as a management alternative, but also to increase the dissemination of gear testing information in the region, under the joint action 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 of the HELCOM programme of measures *Testing alternative fishing gears/fishing techniques to minimize incidental catch through joint project/projects*.

Further, the meeting discussed the need to better detail the purpose of the tests of alternative fishing gears, but since in the questionnaire had been a column named *aim of the tests/why the gear or device considered environmentally sustainable/purpose of using alternative gear*, which describes goal of the tests, it was decided, not to change anything in the format of the questionnaire before the HELCOM FISH 6/2017 meeting.

After the HELCOM FISH 5/2016 meeting, the questionnaire was updated only by adding an information from Denmark, Germany and Poland regarding a new projects carried out in order to test alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss and comment on the questionnaire and to provide new information on tests of alternative fishing gears, fishing techniques were available.

Taking into account the level of expertise and a work planned already under the agenda of the BSAC, including the proposal to create a network for gear development for the cod fishery: (ExCom 310117), the meeting is invited to consider the cooperation with a newly established BSAC sub group on ecosystem based management, regarding the development of alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques which can be used in the Baltic Sea.