



Document title	Analysis of National DC-MAP Work Plans (2016) in the Baltic Sea with respect to incidental bycatch of marine mammals and waterbirds
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Background

The European Commission adopted a new Data Collection Multiannual Plan DC-MAP for years 2017-2019 dated 12 July 2016.

In accordance of the par. (3) of the DC-MAP preamble: *Pursuant to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the Member States shall collect biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data necessary for fisheries management. The multiannual Union programme is necessary for Member States to specify and plan their data collection activities in their national work plans. In accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) these national work plans have to be submitted to the Commission by 31 October preceding the year from which the work plan is to apply.*

Data concerning National DC-MAP Work Plans submitted to the Commission in 2016 in English, are available at the EC Joint Research Centre – DCF website:
<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/wps>.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the analysis of National DC-MAP Work Plans and use this information during the discussion as appropriate.

Analysis of National DC-MAP Work Plans (2016) in the Baltic Sea with respect to incidental bycatch of marine mammals and waterbirds

Method:

Following sections of the national work plans for data collection under the DC-MAP were reviewed:

- SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA - Pilot Study 2: Level of fishing and impact of fisheries on biological resources and marine ecosystem
- SECTION 2: FISHING ACTIVITY DATA (Text Box 2A) "Fishing activity variables data collection strategy"
- Table 1F (incidental bycatch) in the table file.

General remarks:

1. From the information in the table file the intended coverage of (pilot) observer programmes cannot be derived. Due to the focus on trawl fisheries, so far the observer coverage in the gillnet fishery is not adequate¹.
2. There is a clear need to record gillnet effort of full-time and part-time fishermen regardless of vessel size. In countries with a recreational fishery using professional gear, effort data must also be collected for this section (however the sections dealing with recreational fisheries were not reviewed). The effort data is needed as the metric *km *hrs soaked* instead of *days at sea* only. It should be checked if **this metric is recorded in HELCOM Contracting Parties**.
3. SECTION 2: FISHING ACTIVITY DATA (Text Box 2A) "Fishing activity variables data collection strategy" is not aimed at getting better effort data with respect to assessing by-catch of protected species.
4. Some countries state that they are not planning a pilot study on the collection of bird and mammal by-catch data (Section 1) **until regional coordination is completed or end user needs of data are defined**.

¹ ICES WGBYC 2015 found that observer coverage in EU gillnet fisheries was as low as 0.28 % of fishing effort covered by dedicated monitoring. A proposed action in the EU-PoA Seabirds is the monitoring of 10 % of fishing activity. EU Regulation 812/2004 defines as general monitoring obligation that a coefficient of variance of by-catch numbers of 30 % shall be achieved. This is not possible with the actual coverage.

ANNEX 1 Country specific analysis:

Country	information from Table 1F (fisheries, area, species)	dedicated monitoring using observers in gillnet fisheries	dedicated monitoring for protected species such as mammals or waterbirds	assess the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems and habitats	additional information from the national work plan
Denmark	CCTV on vessels from Hirtshals. The scheme samples all species caught, but the program is not designed to give good estimates of rare by-catch events - it is designed to give a good estimate of commercial species	none, but camera pilot study ->	pilot study for bycatch of mammals and birds (outside DCF) using CCTV cameras on a number of smaller vessels to be continued (p. 6)	For assessing the impact of fisheries on marine habitats (ref: 2016/1251Chapter 3, 3 (b)), a routine has been set up using a combination of VMS (>12 m) and logbook, sales notes and vessel register data. Methods from BENTHIS project to be considered. (p. 6)	registration of incidental by-catch of sea birds and marine mammals during the standard observer programme for estimation total catches (ref: 2016/1251Chapter 3, 3 (a)) (p. 6)
Germany	ICES 22-24 gillnets birds and mammals in randomised sampling scheme (Table 1F in table file)	none	pilot study 2017-19 in trawl fisheries ("bottom contacting fishing gears"), special focus on elasmobranchs at species level (p. 5ff.)	pilot study 2017-19 (p. 5ff.) level of fishing by metier to be determined at highest geographical resolution, habitat impact index	
Poland	birds and mammals - ICES 22-32 salmonids, fresh water - expected occurrence of recordings (Table 1 F in table file)	none	Pilot study of 2014 and 15 on bird bycatch risk related to various static gears to be published soon. Future pilot studies to be based on HELCOM agreed end-user needs, which is not the case yet.		awaiting decision at HELCOM, otherwise no study
Lithuania	As soon as the end-users will determine their needs, a pilot project will be planned (Birds and bony fishes, Table 1F in table file)	Most sampling on land. Some at sea sampling (métiers???). Method from Report of the Study Group on Practical Implementation of Discard Sampling Plans (SGPIDS) 2011	In order to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 3 point (c) of Chapter III of the DC-MAP, there is a need to get information on end user needs, as well as to evaluate the capability to start a pilot project governed by the RCG. (time frame for submitting work plan too short)	<- none	need to get information on end user needs

Latvia	Self sampling for bird and mammal bycatch (Table 1F in table file)	some, only few larger vessels (p. 19) (The fishing intensity by region could be evaluated from data that are collected by annually compiled VMS data (ICES Working Group on Spatial Fisheries Data (WGSFD 2016).)	no pilot study planned but already several monitoring programmes running in which the incidental by-catch of non-intended species is evaluated (p. 5). (see Table 1F in the Table file).	no pilot study planned but already several monitoring programmes running in which the incidental by-catch of non-intended species is evaluated (p. 5). (see Table 1F in the Table file).	The pilot study is not planned because there are already several monitoring programmes running in which the incidental by-catch of non-intended species is evaluated (see Table 1F in the Table file). The fishing intensity by region could be evaluated from data that are collected by vessel monitoring systems and the data is compiled annually in ICES Working Group on Spatial Fisheries Data (WGSFD 2016).
Estonia	(ICES IIIb-d): birds ICES 28, 32, mammals ICES 28,33 (Table 1F in table file)	->	pilot study 2017-18: data on bycatch of mammals and birds to be collected by observers on board and by fishermen (questionnaires) - (p. 5)	pilot study 2017-18: data on bycatch of fish, invertebrates , and discarding data to be collected by observers on board and by fishermen (questionnaires) - (p. 5)	All major fishing methods will be covered, in addition effect of fish eating mammals and birds on fishery (unclear how small vessels will be sampled)
Finland	ICES 25-32 birds from logbooks, mammals from reporting obligation, birds: Data source: sampling for biological variables	none	No pilot study on level of fishing and impact of fisheries on biological resources and marine ecosystems is planned for 2017. The need for such studies will be evaluated and possible pilot studies planned during 2017. (p.7)	No pilot study on level of fishing and impact of fisheries on biological resources and marine ecosystems is planned for 2017. The need for such studies will be evaluated and possible pilot studies planned during 2017. (p.7)	Planning and carrying out such studies will hopefully be done as a part of regional co-operation.
Sweden	23-25, 27/29 demersal nets all species in Table 1D will be recorded, see pilot study	->	pilot observer study for assessing bird and porpoise bycatch in 2017, partly self-sampling, possibly CCTV cameras (p.7)		one aim is to assess whether multipurpose monitoring (fish and protected species bycatch) can be carried out simultaneously