

***Draft HELCOM
proposal as end user, for data to be collected under DC-MAP
in order to effectively assess the impact of Baltic fisheries on
the marine ecosystem in the Baltic Sea***

Basis for the proposal EU level:

- **New Data Collection Multiannual Plan DC-MAP for years 2017-2019 adopted by EC on 12 July 2016 (2016/1251)** (Chapter III, 1.1 (b) and 3. collection of data to assess the impact of Union fisheries on the marine ecosystems, also Table 1D - Species to be monitored under protection programmes in the Union or under international obligations);
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (art. 6 regional cooperation, art. 9 determination of GES, art. 11 Monitoring programmes);
- **Common Fisheries Policy (EU 1380/2013)** (art.4 (32) definition of end user of fisheries data).

How we can coordinate and cooperate in the monitoring of our seas, especially noting two different EU policies guiding this monitoring (CFP and MSFD).

initiatives within EU (EFARO Brussels 23 of November 2016)

Multiple approach: EFARO/ICES proposed cooperation of Regional Seas Convention groups and the Regional Coordination Meetings to define common objectives and work towards a plan to proceed.

Improve uptake of funding: EMFF funding for data collection and funds for monitoring programmes under the MSFD, apparently very little of allocated funding has been used.

Devise plan for MSFD/CFP data collection at regional scale.

Organise buy in from member states and DGs. To develop an outline of the use of current DCF fisheries data, also for MSFD purposes, and to come up with a suggestion for potential environmental data for inclusion to the fisheries independent sampling programme

Find common objectives between the organisations involved.

Find champions to make good examples from the region.

Contents of the proposal

- HELCOM data needs (setting the scene)
- Initial proposal for by-caught species to be monitored
- Proposal for variables to be collected to ensure that data are fully operable
- Relevant fleet segment and coverage suggested for dedicated monitoring
- Initial proposal of habitats for the assessment of fisheries impact
- Proposal for data to assist in the assessment of the impact of fisheries on marine habitats
- Justification for the proposal (why HELCOM needs these data)
- Proposal for cooperation with RCM for the Baltic Sea

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. samples all species caught,	none, but camera pilot study	pilot study for bycatch of mammals and birds (outside DCF) using CCTV	a routine has been set up using a combination of VMS (>12 m) and logbook, sales notes and vessel register data. BENTHIS project	registration of incidental by-catch of sea birds and marine mammals during the standard observer programme for estimation total catches
Germany	ICES 22-24 gillnets birds and mammals in randomized sampling scheme	none	pilot study 2017-19 in trawl fisheries special focus on elasmobranchs at species level	pilot study 2017-19 level of fishing by métier to be determined at highest geographical resolution, habitat impact index	
Poland	birds and mammals ICES 22-32 salmonids, fresh water - expected occurrence of recordings	none	Pilot study of 2014 and 15 on bird bycatch risk in static gears.		awaiting decision at HELCOM, otherwise no study
Lithuania	As soon as the end-users will determine their needs, a pilot project will be planned	Some sea sampling	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 RCM	none	need to get information on end user needs
Latvia	Self sampling for bird and mammal bycatch	few larger vessels	no pilot study planned but already several monitoring programmes running where the incidental by-catch of non-intended species is evaluated.	no pilot study planned but already several monitoring programmes running	There are already several monitoring programmes running
Estonia	(ICES IIIb-d): birds ICES 28, 32, mammals ICES 28,33	->	pilot study 2017-18: data on bycatch of mammals and birds to be collected by observers on board and by fishermen (questionnaires)	pilot study 2017-18: data on bycatch of fish, invertebrates, and discarding data to be collected by observers on board and by fishermen (questionnaires)	All major fishing methods will be covered, in addition effect of fish eating mammals and birds on fishery
Finland	ICES 25-32 birds from logbooks, mammals from reporting obligation, birds: Data source: sampling for biological variables	none	No pilot study is planned for 2017. The need for such studies will be evaluated and possible pilot studies planned during 2017.	No pilot study is planned for 2017. The need for such studies will be evaluated and possible pilot studies planned during 2017.	planning and carrying out such studies 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		one aim is to assess whether multipurpose monitoring (fish and protected species bycatch) can be carried out simultaneously

General questions to be discussed

- How should this proposal be considered from the institutional point of view (in the light of HELCOM Convention)?
- Does HELCOM fall under the definition of “end user of scientific data” and can thus be considered as observer during the meetings of the Regional Coordination Group for the Baltic Sea?
- How can Russia be involved in collection and dissemination of fisheries data (of the same information or equal nature)?
- Should DC –MAP only be used to evaluate the impact of fisheries on the marine ecosystem or to be used in order to evaluate the status of some species?
- Can these additional activities be covered by available funds? What is the rough estimate of costs of this additional data collection? what could be the source of the this extra funding needed?

General questions to be discussed

- What is (or is there) the expected management action (HELCOM recommendation?) based on this draft proposal?
- What is the timeline and working groups where the discussion regarding this proposal should take place?