



Document title	HELCOM Questionnaire on alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques
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Submission date	8.1.2019
Submitted by	Poland
Reference	Paragraph 3.4 of the Outcome of the HELCOM FISH 8/2018.

Background

Poland in cooperation with Contracting Parties has prepared a questionnaire on tests of alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques in order to provide information on gears or techniques which could potentially be used in the Baltic Sea to minimise impact of fisheries on marine environment.

The questionnaire has been discussed at several HELCOM FISH meetings in 2017 and 2018. HELCOM FISH 8-2018, thanked Contracting Parties for their contribution to the work and welcomed the offer by Poland to revise the questionnaire taking also into account further updates that can be provided by Contracting Parties to be published at the HELCOM website and other relevant websites. The meeting further invited the Secretariat, in cooperation with Poland, to investigate options for maintaining content of the questionnaire up-to-date in a longer term and having it published with the use of the online tools (par. 3-4 of the Outcome).

Poland has amended the questionnaire by dividing tests on each gear type into separate Excel sheet, to make it more readable, and sent it for further comments, before submitting the questionnaire to HELCOM FISH 9-2019.

During the consultation round, Poland has obtained a comment from BSAC as follows:

“The BSAC welcomes being consulted on the table, but does not have any further comments to make right now. However, we note that the table does not include the work that has been carried out by the different Baltic Member States in their trials with bottom trawls. We would like to know what the purpose is with this table. The table already needs updating to take into account gear trials and developments that have been approved by Member States and sent as joint recommendations from BALTFISH. So Member States are strongly encouraged to comment on the table and provide updates when and where necessary. The BSAC is open to being consulted and ready to give input on the technical details if there is a need for clarification. Finally, we refer to the BSAC recommendations made on selectivity (these can be found on the BSAC website on a dedicated page dealing with recommendations):

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations.>”

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to provide comments and amendments to the HELCOM questionnaire on alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques and to agree on including the questionnaire into the HELCOM website.