

# Update of recreational fisheries regulations in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea

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- Last update of recreation fishing regulations fact sheet - 2015
- Data call – FISH PRO III 1st Meeting (2019)
- Standardized questionnaire sent to CPs in January 2020



# Questionnaire to the Contracting Parties:

- Is there any monitoring or recent surveys on the recreational fisheries in the Baltic Sea in your country? Which method is used in the monitoring (questionnaires, numbers of licences etc.) and at which frequency are the surveys carried out?
- Recreational fisheries catch and effort data starting from the beginning of 2000s (if available). If there is no monitoring, please give a rough estimate of the recreational fisheries catches compared to commercial fisheries?
- Which kind of licenses are needed for recreational fisheries?
- Which gear types are allowed/used in the recreational fisheries?
- Most important target species.
- Which management measures are used in the recreational fishery? Are there catch quotas, minimum or maximum size limits for given species, restricted effort?
- Significant changes in recreational fisheries or catches during recent decades?



# Monitoring, surveys, methods:

- Survey on a regular basis – Sweden (annualy), Finland (every two years), Denmark (twice a year), Poland (annualy), Germany (annualy)
- Lithuania - monitoring on recreational catches for cod and salmonids started 4 years ago under the data collection programme
- Latvia - Monitoring of cod trolling (in 2018) and salmon/sea trout trolling (in 2019, continuing in 2020), daily log-books in self-subsistence fishery
- Estonia – no regular recreational fisheries monitoring, number of licenses monitored, daily log-books in self-subsistence fishery



# Recreational catch and effort data vs. commercial fisheries:

- Sweden – no effort data available. Catch data available since 2014. Recreational fishing is larger than commercial captures for coastal species, e.g. perch, pike, pikeperch, seatrout and whitefish, but the regional resolution of data is poor
- Finland - recreational fisheries catch data available since 2000
- Denmark - recreational catch estimates for cod available since 2000. Estimates for eel, seatrout and salmon but the quality of data has not been verified yet
- Germany - recreational fishery data collection in German marine waters of the North and Baltic Sea since 2003
- Poland – catch and effort data available since 2019
- Lithuania - no monitoring starting from the beginning of 2000s, estimates for cod for 2015 (1,5% of commercial fisheries) and for salmon for 2018 (270% of commercial fisheries)
- Latvia - data from subsistence fishery available from 1993. Proportion around 1-3 % of all catches, data from angling/trolling monitoring (questionnaires) – 2007, 2012, 2018, 2019
- Estonia - obligation to report data on the catches of passive gears.



# Licenses:

- Finland, Estonia – fishing with rod, hook and line is free
- Finland – nationwide fee for angling with one rod allows fishing almost everywhere (except some special areas). Most coastal waters in Finland are privately owned.
- Sweden – no license needed with single exceptions
- Denmark – two types of licenses – angling and passive gear
- Germany – regular fishing license system (exception - North Sea in the state of Lower Saxony)
- Poland, Lithuania - regular fishing license system
- Latvia – for angling – regular fishing license system; for self-subsistence fishery - gear-specific limited fishing license



# Gear types allowed:

- Poland, Lithuania – rod and spearfishing,
- Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Estonia – rod fishing, passive gear (gillnets, fyke nets, long lines, pots).



# Target fish species:

- Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia: – perch, pike, pikeperch, whitefish, sea trout, bream, herring, flounder, eelpout, round goby, garfish
- Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Germany – sea trout, garfish, cod, salmon, flatfish species, eel, herring, bream, perch, pikeperch, pike, round goby (Lithuania)





# Management measures in recreational fisheries:

- Bag limits, minimum landing sizes, temporal and spatial closures mainly to protect spawning sites, size window for pike in Sweden (40-75 cm)
- Finland, Latvia, Estonia – mesh size limitation



# Recent changes in recreational fishing:

- Sweden, Finland, Latvia – decrease of passive gear fishery
- Sweden - increase in catch-and-release practices within the growing rod and reel fisheries
- Denmark – promotion of coastal angling for seatrout
- Poland and Lithuania – increase of salmon and sea trout trolling popularity
- Germany – decrease in cod angling popularity due to introduced cod bag limits



Thank you for attention!

