



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
15-2021

Online, 4-8 October 2021

Document title	List of species for commercial fish assessment
Code	3J-33
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3J - Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
Submission date	1.10.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Document 2-1 Terms of Reference for ComFish WS 1-2021

Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline due to the Workshop being held only on 28-29 September. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.

Background

To guide the assessment of fish for HOLAS III purposes there is a need to define which species should be included under the assessment of coastal fish and commercial fish, especially so for commercial fish which is an assessment not hosted directly by a group within the HELCOM framework.

Based on the [Terms of Reference](#) of the HELCOM Workshop on Status Assessment of Commercial Fish ([ComFish WS 1-2021](#)), held on 28-29 September 2021, the experts established a list of commercial fish species for assessment or monitoring under relevant documents.

This document presents an extract of the recommendations from ComFish WS 1-2021 (Annex 2 of the notes) to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 on the list of species for commercial fish assessment (task 1 of the workshop). The document also describes how the list was established. The notes of the workshop will be submitted at a later stage to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the approach for establishing a list of species and endorse the current list to be included in the commercial fish assessment for HOLAS III, based on the recommendation by ComFish WS 1-2021.

List of species for commercial fish assessment

This section contains the recommendation from ComFish WS 1-2021 to STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021 related to the task 1 “Recommend a regional species list for the assessment of commercial fish species and/or stocks in the Baltic Sea region for adoption”.

Table 1 below shows a recommended list of commercial fish species representative for the ICES Baltic Sea ecoregion (ICES SD 22, 24-32), derived based on the Approach 1 of the table 4 from the ICES Special Request Advice (Further details described in document 4-2).

The list was developed based on the following decision points:

1. Species included in the top 98% of landings by weight or in the top 98% of landings by value during 2015-2019 are included;
2. Lack of data or assessments is not a reason for omitting species from the list, if they meet the above definition;
3. Landings of non-indigenous species (NIS) are not included, as any potential good status of NIS should not contribute to the status assessment of D3, and as any potential poor status of NIS should not motivate management actions with reference to D3;
4. Any species identified on the regional list of commercial fish species and which are also included under HELCOM red list categories “Critically endangered” (CR), “Endangered” (EN), “Vulnerable” (VU) or “Near threatened” (NT) should be included in the overall D3 assessment.

Table 1. Recommended regional list of commercial species in the Baltic Sea, based on contribution to the reported weight of landings in summary for ICES SD 22, 24-32 during 2015-2019, crosschecked for sub-regional variability and against reported landings for 2003-2016. HELCOM Red List classification is listed for information, for concerned species.

Scientific name	Species name	Accumulated proportion of landings by weight	Contributed to 98 % of landing by value	HELCOM Red List
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Atlantic_herring	49,8	YES	
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	European_sprat	86,2	YES	
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Atlantic_cod	90,3	YES	
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Blue_mussel	93,5	YES	
<i>Platichthys flesus</i>	European_flounder and Baltic flounder	96,0	YES	
<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	European_smelt	96,5	YES	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	European_plaice	97,0	YES	
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	European_perch	97,5	YES	
<i>Ammodytes spp+ Gymnoammodytes spp assessed jointly</i>	Sandeels(=Sandlances)	98,0		
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Roach	98,3	YES	
<i>Coregonus albula</i>	Vendace	98,5	YES	
<i>Abramis brama</i>	Freshwater_bream	98,7	YES	
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	Common_dab	98,9	YES	
<i>Sander lucioperca</i>	Pike_perch	99,3	YES	
<i>Coregonus lavaretus</i>	European_whitefish	99,3	YES	EN

<i>Salmo_salar</i>	Atlantic_salmon	99,5	YES	VU
<i>Anguilla_anguilla</i>	European_eel	99,6	YES	CR
<i>Esox_lucius</i>	Northern_pike	99,6	YES	
<i>Scophthalmus_maximus</i>	Turbot	99,7	YES	NT
<i>Salmo_trutta</i>	Sea_trout	99,8	YES	VU
<i>Solea_solea</i>	Common_sole	99,9	YES	