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COLLECTION OF FISHERIES DATA FOR 2012

by

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

GDYNIA, POLAND

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Table of contents

I General framework 5

II National data collection organization 7

II A. National correspondent and participating institutions 7

II B Regional and International coordination 9
II B 1 Attendance of International meetings 9
II B 2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations 9

III Module of the evaluation of the fishing sector 10

III A General description of the fishing sector 10

III B Economic variables 11

III B Baltic Sea, North Sea, Eastern Arctic, North Atlantic (Supra region) 11
III B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 11
III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 15
III.B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 15
III.B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 16

III B Other regions 16
III B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 16
III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 16
III.B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 16

III C Metier-related variables 16

III C Baltic Sea 16
III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 16
III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 18
III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 19
III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 20

III C North Sea and Eastern Arctic 20
III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 20
III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 20
III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 20
III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 21

III C Other regions 21

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 21
III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 21
III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 21
III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 22

III D Recreational fisheries 22
III D 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 22
III D 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 22
III D 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 23
III D 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 23

III E Stock-related variables 23

III E Baltic Sea 23
III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 23
III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 25
III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 25
III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 26

III E North Sea and Eastern Arctic 26
III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 26
III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 26
III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 27
III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 28

III E Other regions 28
III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 28
III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 28
III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 28
III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 28

III F Transversal variables 29
III F 1 Capacity 29
III F 2 Effort 29
III F 3 Landings 29

III G Research surveys at sea 30
III G 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 30
III G 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 34
III G 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 34
III G 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 34

IV Module of the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industry 34

IV A Collection of data concerning the aquaculture 34
IV A 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 35
IV A 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 36
IV A 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 36
IV A 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 36

IV B Collection of data concerning the processing industry 36
IV B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 36
IV B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal 37
IV B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations 37
IV B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls 37

V Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystem 37

V 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 37

V 2 Actions to avoid shortfalls 38

VI Module for management and use of the data 38

VI 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal 38

VI 2 Actions to avoid shortfalls 38

VII Follow-up of STECF recommendations 39

VIII List of acronyms and abbreviations 41

IX Comments, suggestions and reflections 41

X References 42

XI Annexes 43

I General framework

Polish Annual Report covers fisheries, biological, and economical sampling activities in 2012, collected within the Polish National Programme for the Collection of Fisheries Data for 2011-2013. Report was prepared in accordance with the Commission guidelines*: Guidelines for the submission of Annual Reports on the National Data Collection Programmes under Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, Commission Regulation (EC) 665/2008, and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, Version 2013 (Ares(2013509881 – 26/03/2013)*. Polish Annual Report on fisheries data collection 2012 was prepared within the framework of the National Program for 2012 approved by the Commission Decision C(2012) 4913 of 13.07.2012 and in agreement with Council Regulations (EC) 199/2008, 665/2008, and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU and there were no major methodological changes in approach compared to the year(s) before.

List of derogations

Short title of derogation	NP proposal section	Type of data - Variables	Region	Derogation approved or rejected	Year of approval or rejection	Reason / Justification for derogation
Salmon recreational fishery	NP 2011-2013, Section III D 6	Catch, effort and bilogical data	Baltic Sea	Approved	2011	Recreational fishing for salmon accidentally takes place in rivers while open sea angling in Polish waters does not occur.
Eel recreational fishery	NP 2011-2013, Section III D 6	Catch, effort and bilogical data	Baltic Sea	Approved	2011	Eel recreational fishery will be investigated within the framework of Polish Eel Management Plan following Council Regulation 1100/2007 adopting Eel Management Plan (EMP).
Greenland halibut	NP 2012, Sections III C 6 & III E 6	Metier and stock related variables	NS&EA	Approved	2012	Polish quota for Greenland halibut is well below 10% of EU quota (2 tonnes only in 2011) and fishing by Poland for this species is depending entirely on the quota exchange between

						Poland and EU Members States in a given year. Polish fishing for Greenland halibut is performed by one Polish operator with the use of one fishing vessel only. In 2011 Poland is not going to participate in this fishery and there are no reliable prospects that Poland will conduct Greenland halibut fishery in coming years. The RCM NS&EA agreed that sampling of this metier by Germany is sufficiently covering DCF requirements and that Poland and the UK do not have to sample this metier. *(Exemption rule – Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, Annex, Chapter III, section B/B2/5 and RCM NS&EA 2011)*
Saithe	NP 2012, Sections III C 6 & III E 6	Metier and stock related variables	NS&EA	Approved	2012	Poland has no TAC of saithe. Catches depend entirely on quota exchange, landings were less than 10% of Community share for the reference period 2007-2008. One trip per year by one commercial vessel only is conducted.

						Sufficient quota availability in 2012-2013 is highly uncertain. *(Exemption rule – Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, Annex, Chapter III, section B/B2/5 and RCM NS&EA 2011)*

II National data collection organization

II A. National correspondent and participating institutions

National correspondent

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Participating institutions

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI), formerly Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia (SFI), is a sole executor of Data Collection Program.
The NMFRI was established in 1921 to conduct research in marine biology. Areas of research at the NMFRI include fisheries biology, fisheries oceanography and marine ecology, fish processing technology, and fisheries economics.
The National Marine Fisheries Research Institute is supervised by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.
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Polish National Programme is executed solely by the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Gdynia and is financed through the contract with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In accordance with article 8(2) of the Commission Regulation 665/2008, the national DCF website was established - http://dcr.mir.gdynia.pl/ , serving as an information deposit for information related to the data collection framework (DCF). This website is under reconstruction and modifications process but contains basic information and references related to data collection programme.

In 2012 no national coordination meeting took place. Although a national coordination meeting was foreseen in the National Plan and in the budget forecast but it was a precautionary approach in case of necessity for formal coordination meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in relation to funding. However all issues were resolved either by phone, mail or in connection with other meetings.

II B Regional and International coordination

II B 1 Attendance of International meetings

The full list of international co-ordination meetings Poland planned to attend and actually attended is provided in table II.B.1.

Out of 25 international meetings indicated in the annual budget forecast for 2012 as planned to attend, Poland did not attend 2 meetings, for reasons given below:

Meeting planned but not attended	***Reason***
WKPICS2	The person planned to attend the meeting could not participate due to other duties (preparatory work for the November survey at sea). However, Poland did submit the requested data to the workshop.
Workshop on transversal data collection	Workshop was cancelled in 2012 and postponed to 2013

II B 2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

A list of relevant recommendations from all RCMs 2010 not dealt with in Annual Report 2010 and relevant recommendations from all RCMs 2011 and 2012, addressed by the 8th Liaison Meeting (2011) and 9th Liaison Meeting (2012) respectively, not dealt with in other specific sections of this report, is given below.

RCM	**Recommendations**	**Action taken**
RCM Baltic 2010	**For the purposes of regional understanding of sampling activities, National information on sampling should be compiled regionally in advance of the next meeting.**	Recommendation was fulfilled.
RCM Baltic 2010	**Development of a report in FishFrame which calculate the top 90% ranking of metiers for each MS as well as on regional level. The data should be based on data from the two previous years.**	Poland uploaded the data

RCM Baltic 2011 (LM 13)	**For institutes collecting small volumes of age samples for certain species and when new species are to be sampled, task sharing of age reading is necessary in order to optimise the use of age reading expertise. The RCM Baltic recommends the following MS to investigate their capability to read relevant age samples of interested MS:** **(1) Germany: plaice and dab** **(2) Denmark: plaice, dab and sole** **(3) Poland: flounder and turbot** **(4) Sweden: eel and salmon** **(5) Finland: salmon** **The suggested coordination should be discussed, agreed and decided by the National Correspondents so the first agreements could be established before December 2011.**	Poland followed the recommendation and notified the Chair of RCM Baltic that had no capability yet to read age of flounder and turbot samples from other MS
RCM NS&EA 2012 **and** **RCM NA 2012**	**In respect of the development of the RDB and the protection of the data and the ownership of the data, a draft Data Policy Document has been established. The data policy document is based on the current situation but need to reviewed in all its aspects in order to be satisfactory for all MS. The data policy document is a "flexible" document and must be updated as the needs and the development of the RDB are changing. …** **…. The National Correspondents (NC) from all MS are requested to read through the document, and sent all remarks and/or suggestions for improvements to the chair of the relevant RCM and to the RDB Steering Group (RDB-SG).**	The draft Data Policy Document was read through. The Polish NC had no remarks or suggestions for improvement to the draft version of the document.

III Module of the evaluation of the fishing sector

III A General description of the fishing sector

In 2012 the Polish fishing fleet consisted of 805 active and 38 inactive registered vessels, with a combined gross tonnage of 34 thousand GT, a total power of 83 thousand kW and an average age of 28 years. The size of the Polish fishing fleet decreased between 2008 and 2012, with the number of vessels by 9% and GT and kW by 26% and 23% respectively. The major factors causing the fleet to decrease was a decommissioning program implemented in Poland after EU accession as well as the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan adopted in 2010.

The total volume landed by the Polish fleet in 2012 was 180 thousand tonnes of seafood. Total amount of Baltic Sea fleet landings was 120 thousand tonnes, with a landed value of €56 million. In 2012, Atlantic cod generated the highest landed value in Baltic fisheries (€17.8 million), followed by

European sprat (€14.6 million), Atlantic herring (€12.1 million), and then European flounder (€4.6 million). In terms of landings weight, in 2012 Atlantic cod was 14.8 thousand tonnes, European sprat (63.1 thousand tonnes) and Atlantic herring (27.1 thousand tonnes).

The major factor causing the growth in 2012 volume and value of landings was an increased number of vessels that returned to fisheries after termination of the 3 years restrictions in cod quota allocation system implemented in 2009 (rotating suspension of 1/3 of the cod fleet each year). The other reason that explain the increase was high pelagic fish prices which make sprat and herring landings more profitable.

Number of deep-sea vessels in 2010 consisted of 4 units. Total amount of deep sea fleet landings was 59 thousand tonnes in 2012, which is 15% decrease compared to 2011. In 2012, Atlantic horse mackerel generated the highest landed volume (34 thousand tonnes), followed by Round sardinella (8.9 thousand tonnes), Atlantic cod (3.7 thousand tonnes), Atlantic mackerel (3.6 thousand tonnes) and European anchovy (3.5 thousand tonnes). The major factors causing decrease in deep sea water catches in 2012 were termination of fleet activity on Antarctic Atlantic fishing grounds (Krill fisheries) and stopping fishing Chilean jack mackerel on Pacific Ocean (outside Chilean EEZ).

III B Economic variables

III B Baltic Sea, North Sea, Eastern Arctic, North Atlantic (Supra region)

III B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Fisheries economic data has been produced using two main sources of primary information: administrative documents (fishing logbooks, landing declarations, first sale documents) and statistical questionnaires filled out by fishing vessel owners.

Followed previous years, due to confidentiality reasons deep sea trawlers segment were excluded from economic analysis (data were collected but cannot be reported). In 2011 this segment consisted of only 1 very characteristic vessel, what makes impossible to report data without identifying it and infringe the law on data confidence.

Methods used for collecting data adhere to these planned in the NP proposal

Economic Clustering of fleet segments

The final economic clustering is slightly different from NP proposal. Changes occurred in three segments. A separate segment was created for Drift and fixed netters 12-18m (initially clustered with Drift and fixed netters 18-24m), since last vessels over 18 m has changed fishing gear. Due to lack of vessels in segment Vessels using hooks 24-40m it has been deleted from the list. Segments Demersal trawlers 18-24m and Demersal trawlers 24-40m has been clustered as Demersal trawlers 18-24m due to insufficient vessels number. Instead of cluster Pelagic trawlers 24-40m, which become separate segment, segments Pelagic trawlers 12-18m and Pelagic trawlers 18-24m was parts of new cluster Pelagic trawlers 18-24m

Table 1. III B 1 Volume of catches of clustered segments, 2011.

Segments - clustered	Segments - before clustering	tons	%	type of segment
VL0010 PG	VL0010 DTS	12 989	0%	S
	VL0010 PG	7 421 576	100%	I
VL0010 PG - total		**7 434 565**	100%	
VL1218 DTS	VL1012 DTS	1 169 978	11%	S
	VL1218 DTS	9 501 601	89%	I
VL1218 DTS - total		**10 671 579**	100%	
VL1218 HOK	VL1218 HOK	93 460	77%	N
	VL1824 HOK	28 350	23%	N
VL1218 HOK - total		**121 810**	100%	
VL1824 DTS	VL1824 DTS	3 387 652	82%	S
	VL2440 DTS	757 184	18%	S
VL1824 DTS - total		**4 144 835**	100%	
VL1824 TM	VL1824 TM	4 752 411	87%	S
	VL1218 TM	733 985	13%	N
VL1824 TM - total		**5 486 396**	100%	

*HOK, DFN, FPO

S- segments similar to other segments; N – Non-important segments with distinct characteristics; I- Important segment with distinct characteristic

Passive gears 0-10m (VL0010 PG)

One vessel mostly using bottom trawl was merged with passive gear 0-10m vessels consisting of 447 units. This vessel accounted for only 0,2% of the total catches of the whole segment (2011) and targeted similar species to other boats below 10 m length (cod – 60%, flatfish -30%, herring -8%).

Vessels using hooks 12-< 18 m (VL1218 HOK)

The segment of vessels using hooks is made of vessels 12-24m that used longlines in their catches in 2011, and these gears played dominant role in their catches. The clustered segment consist of 27 vessels with dominant role of vessels 12-18 meters length (21 vessels). The vessels belonging to the clustered segment targeted sea trouts and salmons (90%) and flatfishes (10%). Vessels from this cluster didn't report any other fish species.

Demersal trawlers 12-< 18 m (VL1218 DTS)

The clustered segment consist of 70 vessels (55+15). Both segments are leaved in this cluster from NP, mostly because of similar catch composition. Both segments targeting the same species, flatfish 45% and cod 38%.

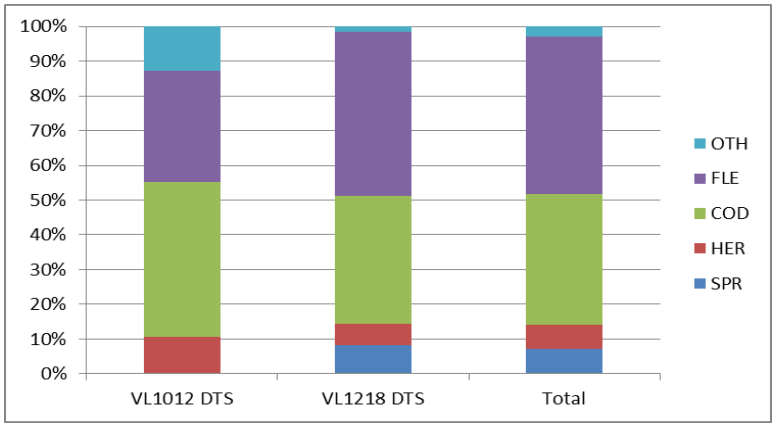

Figure 1. III B1 Demersal trawlers 12-< 18 m – composition of catches of clustered vessels

Demersal trawlers 18-< 24 m (VL1218 DTS)

20 vessels belongs to this cluster. 16 was in segment Demersal trawlers 18-< 24 m and 4 in Demersal trawlers 24-< 40 m. 57% of cluster catches was cod, 20% - flatfishes and 15% sprat. Bigger vessels were strictly targeted demersal species.

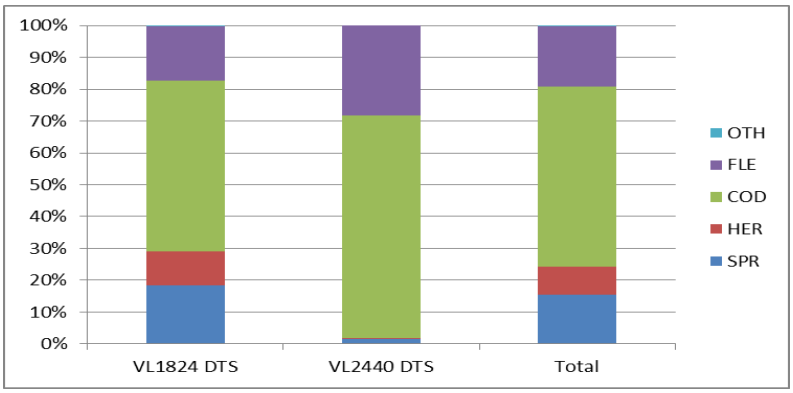

Figure 2. III B1 Demersal trawlers 18-< 24 m – composition of catches of clustered vessels

Pelagic trawlers 18-24 m (VL1824 TM)

The clustered segment consists of 14 vessels belonging to two segments: Pelagic trawlers 12-< 18 m (3 vessels) and Pelagic trawlers 18-< 24 m (11 vessels). Similar gears used and similar catch composition (85% of catches were pelagic species) was a reason for the decision to merge these two groups of vessels into one.

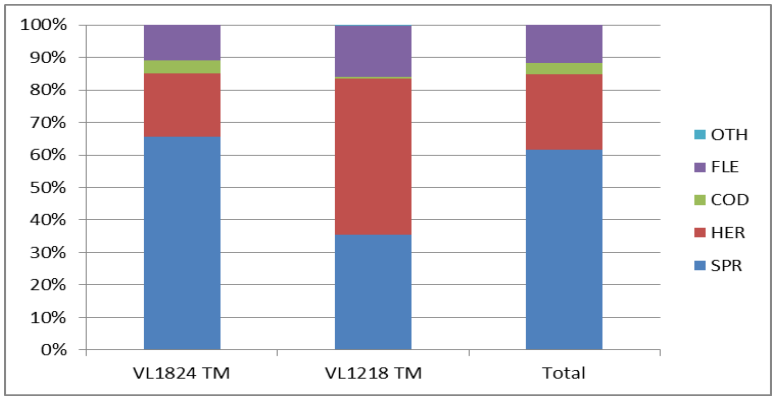

Figure 3. III B1 Pelagic trawlers 18-< 24 m – composition of catches of clustered vessels

Estimation of capital value and capital costs

In order to ensure consistency with data provided for previous years, taking into consideration a specific situation of Polish fisheries (subject of severe capacity reduction program), premiums paid by government for scrapped vessels were taken into account when calculating invested capital. Council Regulation 2792/1999 method of calculation of premium rates was used to determine scrapping value of the vessels. Following the regulation method, capital value of vessels from 16 to 29 years old was depreciated by 1,5 % annually and value of vessels of 30 years old or more decreased by 22,5 %. It is believed that this approach of capital value calculation reflects better value of capital invested in the sector compared to other indicators based on insurance value, book value or replacement value (as well as information collected from questionnaires) which are usually even several times lower than the scraping premiums.

Values used for estimation of capital invested in Polish fleet (according to CR 2792/99)

TABLE 1

Category of vessel by tonnage (GT)	EUR
0 < 10	11 000/GT + 2 000
10 < 25	5 000/GT + 62 000
25 < 100	4 200/GT + 82 000
100 < 300	2 700/GT + 232 000
300 < 500	2 200/GT + 382 000
500 and above	1 200/GT + 882 000

Since 50% of the fleet capacity has been already withdraw with public assistance and further 30% is intend to be reduced until 2013, it is considered that financial compensation have significant influence on capital value. This as well has influenced depreciation which is considered to be better reported through questionnaires.

Because of scarce of information about costs of construction of new vessels in Poland we failed to applied a PIM methodology, due to a very low number of vessels that has been constructed recently.

III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

No deviation compared to NP proposal took place.

In accordance with national regulations, each vessel's owner is legally bound to fill out a questionnaire regarding the economic results of the fishing vessel. In order to ensure the maximum number of questionnaires is received, similarly to previous years reminders of the obligation to file them were sent by ordinary and registered mail and phone calls were made to execute the obligation. Recommendation of the Lisbon DCF workshop on "statistical issues related to the collection of economic data within the DCF" (i.e. closer cooperation with PO) were taken into account to deal with the non-response problem. As the number of returned questionnaires did not reach a plan of respond rate, calculations were made based on the questionnaires received. Economic data received does not usually exceed 70% of respond rate. However all responses were of random character (probability sample), which should ensure the representativeness of the sample. CV values are provided in an Excel table.

III.B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM NS&EA Recommendations

Recommendations	***Planned responsive actions***
Economic variables: sampling strategy for the collection of economic variables	
The RCM NS &EA recommends the following: **1. the inclusion of a methodology report, as proposed by SGECA, would provide significant benefits** *2.* **there would be merit in reviewing the SGRN guidelines as proposed by SGECA**	Methodology of economic variables collection has been provided in NP. Additional relevant information are provided in the Report.
Economic variables: Clustering of fleet segments	
The RCM NS &EA recommends that **1. Statistical legislation had a key role to play in guidance relating to clustering for confidentiality reasons** **2. The guidance drawn up by SGECA, setting out the different approaches should be followed** **3. Further work be undertaken at a regional level, e.g. Baltic Sea, through the RCMs; any harmonisation should be through guidelines rather than a statutory requirement** *4.* **The distant-water fleet for Baltic Sea MS should not be merged with others because of its distinct characteristics**	Poland adhered to suggested recommendations when clustering fleet segments.

III.B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No major shortfalls were observed.

III B Other regions

III B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Followed previous years, due to confidentiality reasons deep sea trawlers segment, fishing in areas 34 and 87 (CECAF and SPRMFO), were excluded from economic analysis. Complete data were collected but cannot be reported. In 2011 this segment consisted of 3 very characteristic vessels only, what makes impossible to report data without identifying them and infringe the law on data confidence.

III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

No deviation compared to NP proposal took place.

III.B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

Not applicable

III.B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Not applicable

III C Metier-related variables

For information on the number of sampled trips and numbers of length sampling, collected during the sampling year, refer to Tables III.C.3 to III.C.6.

III C Baltic Sea

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Sampling of fishing trips:
FPO_FWS_>0_0_0 and GNS_FWS_>0_0_0 métiers in SD 22 – 24 and SD 25-32 were sampled concurrently and the achievement was 100 % of planned trips within the métier FPO_FWS_>0_0_0, sampling of European eel was conducted and all planned fish were measured.

All planned trips of GNS_ANA_>157_0_0 métier were sampled.

Four trips of LLD_ANA_0_0_0 métier were not sampled (out of 8 trips planned) due to unpredictability of salmon fleet activity in the late autumn and winter caused by changes in national technical regulations in relation to designation of salmon landings harbors. Also only few vessels can take observers onboard, as most of the longliners are less than 17 m.

Demersal métiers (OTB_DEF, GNS_DEF, LLS_DEF) selected by the ranking system for sampling separately in SD 22-24 and 25-32 were undersampled in 5 out of 6 cases. These demersal métiers are targeting cod and flatfishes (mainly flounder). The main reason for not achieving the planned number of trips sampled, particularly for SD 22-24 (similarly to 2011), was very low level of the cod TAC

quota utilization in 2012 (33% in SD 22-24 and 78% in SD-25-32) and lower catch level or flounder as compared to previous years.

In the reference period (2007-2008) used for the sampling activity plan for 2009-2013 the cod catches in SD 22-24 amounted to 2.4 thousand tonnes in 2007 and 1.4 thousand tonnes in 2008, whereas in 2012 the cod catch in SD 22-24 dropped to 818 tonnes only (decrease by 67% as compared to 2007). Similarly, flounder catches in SD 22-24 during 2007-2008 amounted to 3.0 and 2.1 thousand tonnes respectively, while in 2012 the catch dropped to 1.3 thousand tonnes only (decrease by 57% as compared to 2007).

With lower catches, the number of trips available for sampling in SD 22-24, significantly decreased and, to some extent, was compensated by the increase in number of trips sampled in corresponding métiers in SD 25-32 (OTB_DEF and GNS_DEF, representing the largest share of cod catch in the SD-25-32, reaching 95%). However, sampling reallocation between SD 22-24 and SD 25-32 could not compensate for the shortages and did not allow to meet the sampling plan in 2012.

Demersal fish métier (OTB_DEF) in SD 22-24 and in SD 25-32 was sampled in 9 and 23 trips respectively, as compared to 15 and 20 trips planned to be sampled in SD 22-24 and SD 25-26 respectively (trips at sea and landings on shore combined). Reallocation of number of trips between sub-divisions (without any increase in the budget) was the consequence of the attempts to compensate for the low number of fishing trips observed in SD 22-24.

For GNS_DEF métier, total of 20 trips for both SD 22-24 and SD 25-32 were planned for sampling. Only 13 trips for this metier were actually sampled in SD 22-24, whereas 24 trips were sampled in SD 25-32. Considerable discrepancy between the expected and achieved number of trips sampled in SD 22-24 was the result of the decreased fishing activity and very low level of the cod TAC utilization (33%), as well as lower flounder catch (total number of trips with the use of GNS_DEF métier in 2012 was lower by 34% as compared to the reference years).

For LLS_DEF métier, 5 trips in SD 22-24 and 10 trips in SD 25-32 were planned to be sampled on shore. No trips were sampled in SD 22-24 due to very low catch of both cod and flatfishes – 29 t and 15 t respectively (3,6% of the cod catch in SD 22-24 and 1% of the flatfishes catch in SD 22-24). In SD 25-32, 8 trips were sampled. The shortfall again was due to low level of quota utilization and decreased fishing activity with the use of this métier (total number of trips with the use of LLS_DEF métier in 2012 was lower by 69% in SD 22-24 and by 45% in SD 25-32 as compared to the reference years).

For the **pelagic métier** OTM_SPF_32-104 used in fishery targeting herring in SD 22-24 six trips were sampled on shore only, as compared to planned sampling of three trips on shore and three trips at sea. Thus the total number of planned trips were achieved by supplementing at sea sampling with sampling on shore. Main reason for that change in the planned sampling strategy was the fact that there were considerably less fishing trips with the use of this métier in SD 22-24 during the sampling year (37 trips) as compared to the reference years (average of 271 trips) and it proved difficult to place the observers on board the vessel in that fishing ground, mainly due to safety reason.

For OTM_SPF_32-104 métier, targeting herring SD 25-32 total of 14 trips were sampled (10 trips on shore and 4 trips at sea), as compared to 18 trips planned (12 trips on shore and 6 trips at sea respectively). A little decline of sampling achieved was caused by early herring catch quota utilization

– in October 2012 a ban for fishery targeting herring (using OTM_SPF_32-104_0_0 metier) was put in force. The herring sampling in SD 25-32 from OTM gear was supplemented with 16 at sea and 12 on shore trips sampled from OTM_SPF_16-31 métier targeting sprat, in which herring was a by-catch.

Although total of 6 trips were planned to sample the merged OTB/PTB_SPF_32-104 métier in SD 25-32, only one on shore trip were sampled in 2012 due to significant decline in the use of these gears in the herring fishery (reduction by over 85% compared to the reference years) and closure of herring fishery in October 2012, which made the sampling arrangements impossible.

For FPO_SPF_>0_0_0 métier, all three planned trips were sampled on shore in SD 22-24. Out of 6 trips planned for sampling on shore in SD 25-32, only two trips were actually sampled. This shortfall was mainly caused by the decline of this type of fishery in SD 25-32 in the sampling year (reduction by over 56% compared to the reference years) as well as a significant catch level decline in SD 25.

For GNS_SPF_32-109 métier in SDs 22-24 all three planned trips were sampled. Out of 6 trips planned for sampling on shore in SD 25-32, only one trip were actually sampled, due to lower catch level with this gear comparing to the previous years, especially in SD 26.

For OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0 métier for sprat target fishery in the ICES SD 22-24 and SD 25-32, two and 28 trips were sampled respectively, as compared to 6 and 28 trips planned for sampling in 2012 respectively. There reasons for the shortfall of sampling this metier in the ICES SD 22-24 were that the overwhelming majority of trips with the use of this metier in the sampling year (over 95%) took place in SD 25-32 and additionally, in August 2012 a ban for fishery targeting sprat (using OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0 metier) was put in force. Therefore, sampling effort were concentrated in SD 25-32, where this metier was mainly used. The OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0 métier sampling at sea was focused on the sprat industrial catches, discards and landings for human consumption.

Length measurements:

Most of the fish stocks were oversampled in terms of the number of length measurements, well exceeding the planned and requested minimum numbers. This oversampling is mainly caused by the intensive sampling at sea. When the measurements are taken by an observer during the trip at sea, the reason for over-sampling is often that all fish chosen randomly as a subsample have to be measured in order to calculate the retained and discarded portion of the whole catch. Additional reason is that when an observer is already onboard the vessel, the entire observed trip is sampled - because sampling does not stop after a few hauls, but is continued until the end of that trip (the same applies to samples taken by fisherman as self-sampling). The oversampling onboard the vessels did not cause any substantial additional costs, except minor costs of additional staff time for sampling processing which, however, did not result in budget excess.

Undersampling in length measurement occurred in case of three species only (Salmo salar, Pleuronectes platessa and Psetta maxima) due to either low level of the catch quota utilization (73% in case of salmon) or very low level of catch.

III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

CV`s parameters were calculated using COST scripts.

The required annual precision targets (CV) related to the length composition from retained catches and/or landings were achieved, with the exception of three species only, all in SD 25-32, i.e. herring (Clupea harengus), sprat (Sprattus sprattus) and plaice (Pleuronectes platessa), where the achieved precision were slightly above the target values of CVs.

In no case the precision targets on discards were achieved, the reason for which could be that the actual variability of the variable sampled was much higher than assumed and the precision target could not be reached with the planned sampling intensity. The discards rates observed in fishing trips with NMFRI's observers on board vary considerably. The discards occurrence, its volume and species composition depend heavily on the spatial and temporal distribution of fishing activity and target species. On one hand, there are fishing trips with no discards at all and on the other, there are fishing trips with high rates of discards, e.g. for hauls with a large number of undersized fish. Therefore, good estimation of discards volume by fishing ground and target species depends on close cooperation with the fishing industry, which is one of Poland's priority to improve precision in that area.

III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM	Recommendations	Action taken
Baltic Sea **2010**	**RCM Baltic endorses RCM NS&EA recommendation of MS to use the average landing figures over the years 2007-2008 as the basis for ranking métiers within the NP 2011-2013**	Recommendation was fulfilled.
RCM Baltic 2011 (LM 3) **and** **RCM Baltic 2012**	**To ensure possibilities for adequate sampling of biological and métier related data including landings in foreign MS, national institutes need to have online access to national logbook data and national VMS data.**	Polish national institute has online access to logbook and VMS data, though access to these data and data management require improvements in direct contacts between DCF staff and Fisheries Administration (this process is under way)
RCM Baltic 2011 (LM 4) **and** **RCM Baltic 2012**	**MS should upload all landing data into FishFrame allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements.** **The RCMs should each year perform an analysis on landings in foreign countries and conclude were bilateral agreements needed to be made. MS should set up agreements, fixing the details of sampling, compilation and submission of data in each case when it is indicated by the RCM that a bilateral agreement is needed. To include the agreed analysis in FishFrame would be very convenient and time saving.**	Poland is following the recommendation. In 2011 bilateral agreement with Sweden was set (Annex 2). Potential agreements with other MS are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded

	MS should set up agreements, fixing the details of sampling, compilation and submission of data in each case it is concluded by the RCM that a bilateral agreement is needed.	to FishFrame.
RCM NA 2011 (LM 27)	**MS should make sure that their landings abroad are included in the Regional Database upload allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements.** **The RCMs should perform an annual analysis on landings in foreign countries and conclude where bilateral agreements need to be made. MS should set up agreements, fixing the details of sampling, compilation and submission of data in each case when it is indicated by the RCM that a bilateral agreement is needed. Standard output algorithms to enable analysis of compiled data should be included in the RDB.**	Poland is following the recommendation. In 2011 bilateral agreement with Sweden was set. Potential agreements with other MS are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame

III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Shortfalls described in sections III.C.1 were unavoidable do to the changes in the fishing pattern in 2012 as compared to previous years. Sampling scheme needs to be adjusted according to fishing spatial and temporal distribution and, therefore, more direct contacts and dialogue with fishing industry is required.

III C North Sea and Eastern Arctic

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Only one trip for one metier were planned to sample by Poland in ICES area I, II in 2012 sampling year – i.e., DEF_>120_0_0 targeting cod, and this target was met.

In total, 16 327 individual fish were measured for length, as compared to 2 500 number of fish planned to measure. The reason for exceeding the planned minimum is explained in section *III C 1 (Baltic Sea).*

III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The required annual precision target (CV) related to the length composition from retained catches and/or landings was achieved.

III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM NS & EA	**RCM NS&EA considers that, in a situation where sampling resources are limited, priority should be given to the sampling of discards in**	No workshop dedicated to this topic was planned yet

2010	**those métiers with high discarding. In order to be able to allocate and prioritize sampling effort to observer programmes at sea or self sampling programmes for estimating discards, preliminary information is required on discarding by métier where it is available. The information required is an estimate of the level of discarding (volume and percentage) and the main species contributing to the discard fraction of the catch**	

III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No action required.

III C Other regions

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

CECAF

Sampling in 2012 was arranged through agreed joint sampling programme.
Following RCM LDF 2011 recommendation, Poland signed to "*Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters"* – attached in Annex 3.
The above joint sampling programme is coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands' Annual Report 2012.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2012.

III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

CECAF

Sampling in 2012 was arranged through agreed joint sampling programme, coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands' Annual Report 2012.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2012.

III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM LDF 2010	**All MS involved in industrial small pelagic fishery in "From Morocco to Guinea Bissau" fishing ground to ensure adequate sampling coverage for the**	Recommendation fulfilled – joint sampling program set in 2011 – see Annex V

	landings and discards.	
RCM LDF 2011	**To implement a joint observer program in the fishery of small pelagic in the CECAF area during the years 2012 and 2013.**	Recommendation fulfilled

III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No action required.

III D Recreational fisheries

III D 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

According to Polish NP proposal for 2012 only cod recreational fishery were sampled in the Baltic Sea. Two types of data were planned for collection in order to monitor the development of cod recreational fisheries and to estimate the catch level.

1. Data on the number of recreational sea-going trips and the number of anglers participating at those trips were collected from seven Maritime Offices' registers.
2. Data on total weight of fish caught and biological data (length, weight, sex, maturity and age) were collected and processed from ten angling trips with observers on-board.

According to NP 2012, twelve trips for recreational fishery were planned to sample. However, an annual agreement between NMFRI and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for the execution of data collection program in 2012 provided for sampling of ten recreational trips only and such an amount of recreational trips to sample were set in the 2012 budget. The same problem took place in 2011 (see the Polish AR 2011).

III D 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Data on number of recreational sea-going trips and the number of anglers participating at those trips collected from Maritime Offices' registers are the complete data source on marine recreational fisheries status. Each angling vessel's departure, including number of anglers on-board, is recorded in Maritime Office's documents.

Main intention of on-board observed trips is to weight each fish angled in order to determine the whole catch of fish during given trip. This allows for estimating the total catch applying raising method by number of trips recorded by Maritime Offices. Sampling of all ten trips in 2012 were performed according to the method described above, with the collection of length of the fish. Part of the catch was also sampled for biological data (age and sex).

Vessels for on-board observer trips are selected randomly.

III D 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM Baltic 2011	**MS is requested to submit the recreational fishery available data (total removals, any biological data) to the next meeting of WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL in 2012. ICES WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL are asked to consider the usefulness of inclusion the recreational fishery data into the stock assessment. IF it is useful for certain stock WG should provide the list of necessary data needed from recreational fishery in the Baltic.**	Poland had data available for WGBFAS regarding cod recreational fishery. Poland did not collect data on salmon (WGBAST) and eel (WGEEL) recreational fisheries (derogation – see list of derogation in section I)
RCM NA 2011 (LM 30)	**RCM NA recommends MS to include recommendations and outcomes of PGRFS in the adjustment of their 2012 NP, if relevant**	Outcomes of the PGRFS were included in the adjustment of NP for 2012

III D 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

In order to avoid shortfalls in sampling intensity experienced in 2011 and 2012 (data from 10 trips only collected and processed instead of 12 trips planned), NMFRI applied to the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with the proposal of the necessary amendments of the nationally agreed budget for data collection. However, as the annual agreements between NMFRI and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for fisheries data collection (including the budget) is based on the Decision of the National Council of Ministers setting the multiannual fisheries data collection programme for the period 2007-2013, changes of the structure of the national budget for data collection requires the respective amendment of the Decision of the Council of Ministers and any change in this Decision is a lengthy process. Due to the fact that budget for data collection is funded from public money included in the state budgetary regulation, in accordance to Polish law, amendment of the already approved Decision of the Council of Ministers requires lengthy legislative procedure, including consultation with all Ministers. Such internal consultation were initiated in 2012 but its completion is expected by middle 2013 at the earliest. Therefore, we expect to rectify the situation in 2013.

III E Stock-related variables

The planned and achieved sampling is summarized in Table III.E.3.

III E Baltic Sea

III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

According to NP 2012 Poland should sample 13 stocks in the Baltic Sea.

Clupea harengus SD22-24, SD 25-32: The SD25-32 stock of this species was sampled according to the plan. However, the was a shortfall of 15% in number of fish measured for length and age with regard to the SD22-24 herring stock – the intention was to collect samples for detailed biological analyses from both trips sampled on shore and trips sampled at sea, but no at sea trips were sampled in 2012 for reasons explained in section III C 1.

Sprattus sprattus SD22-32: Baltic sprat was sampled slightly in excess of the planned level (by 24%) but within an acceptable limits.

Gadus morhua SD22-24, SD25-32: Baltic cod stock SD22-24 was undersampled by 37% in terms of number of fish measured for length, weight, sex, age and maturity. The main reason for the shortfall were very low level of the cod TAC quota utilization in 2012 in SD 22-24 (only 33%), dramatic decrease in cod fishery (by 67% as compared to the reference year) which resulted in limited number of trips available for sampling. On the other hand, cod stock SD25-32 was oversampled by 143% - this was mainly caused by the an intensive sampling at sea (rationale behind the oversampling in case of sampling trips at sea is given in section III C 1) and did not resulted in additional cost leading to budget excess. Additionally, a high sampling level for this cod stock (being the main cod stock for the Polish fishery) was caused by the need to achieve high number of weight@length ratio for individuals in order to get the reliable weight-length relationship, which is the issue of growing concern in the light of the assumed decrease in individual growth rate for Baltic cod. Thus numerous and reliable data are required to investigate this issue.

Platichthys flesus SD22-32: There were no shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for flounder. This species was sampled according to plan.

Pleuronectes platessa SD22-32: Plaice was sampled slightly in excess of the planned level (by 30%) but within an acceptable limits.

Psetta maxima SD22-32: There were no shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for turbot. This species was sampled according to plan.

Salmo salar SD22-31: Some shortfall (27%) in length, weight, age and sex measurements of salmon sampling occurred due to low level of the salmon catch quota utilization (73%). Maturity of salmon was not always possible to collect because most of fish obtained for sampling was already gutted. Furthermore, the WGBAST does not use salmon maturity data from sea catch for assessment purposes because there is no agreed method for good differentiation of maturity during sea-life stage.

Salmo trutta SD22-32: Sea trout was sampled in excess of the planned level (by 76%), but with no negative impact on the planned sampling cost. Reason for oversampling is that sea trout is to a great extent sampled by fisherman (self-sampling based on contract with NMFRI), who took sample from a whole catch.

Perca fluviatilis IIId: There were no shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for perch. This species was sampled according to plan.

Sander lucioperca IIId: There were no shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for pike perch. This species was sampled according to plan.

Anguilla anguilla IIIb-d: There were no shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for European eel. This species was sampled according to plan.

III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

CV`s parameters were calculated using COST scripts.

In general, the precision actually achieved regarding sampling intensity for stock related variables were above the target, the reason for which could be that the actual variability of the variable sampled was much higher than assumed and the precision target could not be reached with the planned sampling intensity. It also seems that the required precision target was set at the unrealistic level, achieving of which would require both unrealistically high level of sampling intensity and substantial increase in sampling costs.

III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM	Recommendations	Action taken
RCM Baltic 2011 (LM 10)	**In order to be able to analyze the current sampling level of cod in the Baltic and suggest optimal sampling levels for future regional coordinated sampling, the data must be available in an agreed format and checked for errors. Data has to be uploaded in FishFrame. All MS should upload 2010 cod data into FishFrame before the end of October 2012.**	Poland uploaded data to FishFrame
RCM Baltic 2011 (LM 9)	**MS to look into discard sampling program according to WKACCU 2008 guidelines (12 aspects).**	Poland followed this recommendation
RCM NA 2011 (LM 33)	**RCM NA recommends MS to complete properly the tables III.E.1 and III.E.2**	Poland followed this recommendation
RCM NS&EA 2011 (LM 50)	**Sampling for ages and the construction of ALK should follow sound statistical sampling practices set out according to WKPRECISE. Greater emphasis should be placed on the collection of age samples for species subject to age based stock assessments as the collection of length frequency data not linked to age samples may be of limited benefit in improving bias and precision estimates for numbers at age. Databases structures should allow storage of linked age and length samples. Collection regulations should not encourage the collection of length only data at the expense of age**	Sampling by Poland takes into account this recommendation. This issue is on-going and will be addressed by WKPICS 3 in light of a revised DCF

	sampling for species subject to age based assessments. .	
RCM NS&EA 2012	**Where it was identified that bilateral agreement is required, according to the rules agreed upon at the RCM NS&EA 2011 and endorsed by the LM8 and STECF 11-19, MS are requested to establish or update a bilateral agreement on sampling of landings abroad**	Poland follows the recommendation. Potential agreements with other MS are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame
RCM NA 2012	**RCM NA recommends MS put in place bilateral agreements for sampling of landings abroad where applicable.**	Poland follows the recommendation. Potential agreements with other MS are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame

III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Shortfalls described in sections III.E.1 were unavoidable due to the changes in the fishing pattern in 2012 as compared to previous years. Sampling scheme needs to be adjusted according to fishing spatial and temporal distribution and therefore more direct contacts and dialogue with fishing industry is planned.

III E North Sea and Eastern Arctic

III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

According to NP 2012 Poland should sample one stocks in the region of North Sea and Eastern Arctic.

Gadus morhua I-II: There were no shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for cod. This species was sampled according to plan.

III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The precision actually achieved regarding sampling intensity for stock related variables were above the target, the reason for which could be that the actual variability of the variable sampled was much higher than assumed and the precision target could not be reached with the planned sampling intensity.

This could be an effect of placing one observer only on board the vessel in order to reduce the cost (as placing the observer on board deep sea going vessel, fishing far from home country is an expensive exercise), which reduces the physical possibility of collecting at the same time all metier related variables with extensive length data, as well as stock related variables.

III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM NS & EA 2011	**The RCM NS&EA recommends that that all MS respond to the data call in 2012 from the chair of RCM NS&EA and load their data to FishFrame or make it available in the FishFrame format. This data call will include Commercial Landings(CL), Commercail Effort (CE) and Commerical Samples (CS) records for 2010 and 2011.**	Recommendation will be followed in the future if the Polish fishery and data collection resume in the area concerned. Data that Poland has for previous years will be uploaded to FishFrame upon request from the RCM NS&EA
RCM NS & EA 2011	**Sampling for ages and the construction of ALK should follow sound statistical sampling practices set out according to WKPRECISE. Greater emphasis should be placed on the collection of age samples for species subject to age based stock assessments as the collection of length frequency data not linked to age samples may be of limited benefit in improving bias and precision estimates for numbers at age.** **Databases structures should allow storage of linked age and length samples.** **Collection regulations should not encourage the collection of length only data at the expense of age sampling for species subject to age based assessments.**	Recommendation noted for implementation. Poland will follow this recommendation if and when the Polish fishery and data collection resume.
RCM NS & EA 2011	**The RCM NS&EA recommends that the task sharing species are investigating by MS participating in current age reading programs and decide whether task sharing is desirable or possible for the future.**	Recommendation noted but not addressed directly to Poland.

III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

In order to meet the required precision target for stock related variables, there is a need to place two observers on board the vessel fishing in the region in question (instead of one observer), which would increase the capacity to intensify collection of biological data and Poland is planning to do so in the future.

III E Other regions

III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

CECAF

Sampling in 2012 was arranged through agreed joint sampling programme.
Following RCM LDF 2011 recommendation, Poland signed to "*Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters".*
The above joint sampling programme is coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands' Annual Report 2012.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2012.

III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

CECAF

Sampling in 2012 was arranged through agreed joint sampling programme, coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands' Annual Report 2012.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2012.

III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM LDF **2011**	**In the absence of a maturity scale for CECAF stocks, the RCM-LDF recommends for the time being to use the maturity scale established in the ICES WKSPMAT 2008 Workshop.**	Recommendation is followed (within the frame of joint observer program)

III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No action required.

III F Transversal variables

III F 1 Capacity

III F 1 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Data originated from the national register of fishing vessels. Assigning a given vessel to a segment of the fleet was based on information derived from fishing logbooks. The data were collected from all active vessels (those which performed catches on at least one day per year) as well as from inactive vessels (those which do not conduct catches, but were registered).

III F 1 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The data were collected for the entire population; there is no need for data sampling.

III F 1 3 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Not applicable

III F 2 Effort

III F 2 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Effort data were collected from vessel register, logbooks or monthly catch declarations in case of vessels less than 8 meter length. Some assumption had to be made in order to calculate soaking time. 2012 logbook and monthly catch declarations data on fishing time (unavailable before 2011) were used to recalculate soaking time for years 2008-2010 and to produce 2012 values. Since logbooks information about fishing time seemed to be useless for calculation of soaking time (missing information about soaking time), the parameter was calculated based on data derived from monthly catch reports of vessels less than 8 meters of LOA. This group of vessels usually reports actual time that fishing gear spent in water. An average soaking time per trip was calculated for this group of vessels and extrapolated to other vessels using information about their total number of trips.

III F 2 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

All effort data are based on census information.

III F 2 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No such recommendations

III F 3 Landings

III.F.3.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Information were gathered from entire population. As mentioned earlier due to confidentiality reasons some of the transversal variables, i.e. value of landings and prices by commercial species, could not be reported for “Other regions” where small number of vessels (4 units) operates (these data were actually collected). Data about landing value for smaller vessels (less than 8 meters) were estimated based on price information available from other vessels. Volume of landings of the vessels below 8 meters was taken from monthly catch reports submitted to FMC (census data).

III.F.3.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Data for value of landings were produced for entire population (100%) using sales notes information. If value was missing for some vessels belonging to different segments it was estimated on the basis of average prices of similar group of vessels taking into account seasonal price variability.

III.F.3.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No such recommendations

III.F.3.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

100% information is collected on volume of landings. Having landings volume it is possible to estimate value very precisely. An average fish prices from similar vessel size are taken to make the estimation.

III G Research surveys at sea

The National Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Gdynia conducted three research surveys in 2012, which have the priority 1. The following surveys were executed on board of the r/v "Baltica" within the Polish EEZ:

- the bottom-trawl survey (BITS-1Q), marked with the number 2/2012/MIR, was accomplished in the period of 13.02.-01.03.2012, within the framework of the Baltic International Trawl Surveys long-term programme,
- the acoustic and pelagic-trawl survey (BIAS), marked with the number 13/2012/MIR-PIB, was realised in the period of 11-29.09.2012, within the framework of the Baltic International Acoustic Surveys long-term programme,
- the bottom-trawl survey (BITS-4Q), marked with the number 17/2012/MIR, was conducted in the period of 16-28.11.2012, within the framework of the Baltic International Trawl Surveys long-term programme.

The principal methods of investigations, timing of the BITS and BIAS surveys and the scheme of randomly selected control-hauls spatial distribution in the bottom zone of the southern Baltic were designed and co-ordinated by the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS] (Anon. 2011, 2012).

III G 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

• **BITS-1Q/2012 survey**: overall, 18 days at sea were used for fulfilling the survey purposes – which is in excess by 2 days as compared to the originally planned 16 days at sea, due to adverse weather conditions (very strong wind) which occurred on the 21, 23 and 25 February 2012 making it impossible to conduct survey. Thus, in order to meet the set targets the survey time had to be extended by 2 more days.

A considerable damage to the fishing gear were noted at the catch-stations Nos. 28 and 39 (Annex I, Fig. 1), and both hauls could be considered as not representative. In other case, a front part of the trawl was only partly damaged at the catch-station No. 4, and this haul can be considered as valid.

In accordance to the WGBIFS plans (Anon. 2011) and its modification made on the beginning of 2012, the Polish vessel was recommended to cover parts of the ICES Sub-divisions 25 and 26 with 30 and 19 randomly selected control-hauls respectively, including three hauls previously designated to the Russian vessel. The planned catch-stations were located within the Polish EEZ, at the bottom depth range of 19 - 90 m.

The r.v. "Baltica" realized totally 51 bottom trawl catch-stations, i.e. all 49 planned by WGBIFS, and two additional hauls (to compensate for abandoned haul due to oxygen deficit and to improve the representativeness of ALK for cod). The control-haul No. 3, due to the oxygen deficit (0.0 ml/l) on the seabed was only initiated by hydrological parameters measurement. The control-haul No. 45, which accordingly to the originally selected position was very close to the catch-station No. 47 (in the distance of about 1.2 NM), was shifted to the neighbouring area due to very dense aggregation of commercial fishing fleet (about 40 cutters). The catch-stations Nos. 28 and 39, due to considerable damage tothe fishing gear can be considered as not representative. Overall, 29 and 19 catch-stations in the ICES Sub-divisions 25 and 26 respectively can be considered as representative. Trawling was done with the standard bottom trawl type TV-3#930 (with 10-mm mesh bar length in the codend). The EK-60 scientific echosounder and a standard vertical fish-sounder monitored the trawling depth and controlled values of the acoustic parameter S_A (= NASC; Nautical Area Scattering (Strength) Coefficient), which reflect temporal size of fish aggregations vs. depth.

The catch per unit effort (CPUE) of particular species was recalculated per ½ hour of trawling. In order to determine species composition and evaluate the CPUE of single species, catch from each control-haul was sorted, fish were weighed and the samples of dominants were taken to determine the length distribution, age-length-mass relationships, sex, stage of gonads development, feeding conditions, the numerical share of young, undersized specimens in samples, and prevalence of externally visible diseases. The total length distribution and the mean mass at the 0.5-cm classes - in the case of clupeids and 1-cm classes in the case of other species were determined. Following number of fish were taken for the length and mass determination:

- cod – 3444,
- herring – 5737,
- sprat – 3914,
- flounder (separated by sex) – 1173,
- plaice (separated by sex) – 146,
- turbot – 5,
- single specimens of other species.

The very same number of individuals per species (excl. turbot) was visually inspected for determination the symptoms of different pathological changes, visible on the skin surface and in the vertebral column. In total, 499 cod, 966 herring, 455 sprat, 333 flounder, 114 plaice and 5 turbot individuals were taken to the standard biological analyses, including ageing. Biological analyses of fish were made in accordance to the standard methodological procedures, directly on board of the survey vessel.

Every control-haul was preceded by the basic hydrological parameters measurements (the seawater temperature, salinity, oxygen content), made continuously from the sea-surface to the bottom. The hydrological data were aggregated and archived per each 1-m depth interval. Overall, 47 fish catch-stations starting positions and 19 additional standard hydrographic stations were controlled by the Neil-Brown CTD-probe combined with the rosette sampler (the bathometer rosette). Oxygen content was determined by the standard Winkler's method.

For more survey's details see:
Grygiel, W. and T. Wodzinowski 2012. Research report from the Polish Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS-1Q/2012) in the southern Baltic (13.02. – 01.03.2012). Working paper on the WGBIFS meeting in Helsinki (Finland); 26-30.03.2012; [in:] ICES CM 2012/SSGESST:02, Annex 7; 174-192 pp.

• **BITS-4Q/2012 survey**: overall, 12-planed working days at sea were used to fulfil the survey goals. Favourable weather conditions during survey made it possible to perform all scheduled survey tasks. In accordance to the WGBIFS plans (Anon. 2012), the r/v "Baltica" was recommended to cover the Polish parts of the ICES Sub-divisions 25 and 26 with 16 and 15 randomly selected control-hauls respectively. After correction made by the WGBIFS on the beginning of autumn 2012, the Polish vessel was recommended to cover part of the southern Baltic with totally 34 randomly selected control-hauls, including three additional hauls, previously designated to the Danish vessel "Dana". The catch-stations were planned at the bottom depth range of 16 - 108 m.

Overall, 37 catch-stations was accomplished (16 and 21 hauls in the ICES SDs 25 and 26 respectively; Fig. 2), of which 34 hauls can be accepted as representative. Additional three control-hauls were conducted instead of hauls, where the oxygen depletion was recognized in the near bottom waters. The above-mentioned hydrological situation were noted for hauls Nos. 20, 25 and 26, located in the eastern part of the Gdansk Deep - very close to the Polish-Russian marine border (Fig. 2), where the bottom depths was 93-108 m. Two of the originally planned hauls were located within permanently closed navy training area. Therefore, instead of aforementioned hauls, two new hauls Nos. 14 and 15 were conducted- however, the original (Tow-Database) geographical positions were slightly changed because they were located on the new vessels separation traffic road. The location and depth of haul No. 36 was slightly changed due to not accessible primary selected site (by WGBIFS), where the set gillnets were distributed. In the case of haul No. 37, trawling position was considerably changed due to not accessible primary selected site, where the set gillnets and operating cutters were densely distributed in a large area.

Fishing gear, fish control-hauls methodology and fish biological investigations were the same as in the BITS-1Q/2012 survey. Overall, 13917 specimens from 18 species were taken for the length and mass determination, including following numbers of dominating species:

- cod – 4079,
- herring – 4499,
- sprat – 2480,
- flounder (separated by sex) – 1389,
- plaice (separated by sex) – 267,
- greater sand eel – 1006,
- some specimens from remaining species

.

Materials collected during fish length measurements were used for an evaluation of the juvenile, undersized specimens' numerical share in samples. In total, 385 cod, 657 herring, 338 sprat, 431 flounder, 141 plaice and 7 turbot individuals were taken to the standard biological analyses, including ageing. Overall, 368 cod stomachs samples from the ICES Sub-divisions 25 and 26 were collected for detailed analyses of food spectrum. Baltic cod feeding investigations are supported by WGBIFS (Report 2012). Overall, 37 fish catch-stations' starting positions and 28 additional standard hydrographic stations, determined along the research profile of the southern Baltic, were controlled for the seawater temperature, salinity, oxygen content spatial distribution.

For more survey's details see:
Grygiel, W. and T. Wodzinowski 2013. Research report from the Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS-4q) in the Polish part of the southern Baltic (16-28 Nov. 2012). Working paper on the WGBIFS meeting in Tartu (Estonia); 21-25.03.2013; 20 pp., mimeo.

• **BIAS/2012 survey**: totally, 18 working days were used to fulfil the survey goals (and 18 days were planned), and 37 fish catch-stations with the use of herring small-meshed pelagic trawl type WP 53/64x4 were inspected (40 control-hauls was planned). Overall, 2, 19 and 16 hauls were conducted in the Polish parts of the ICES Sub-divisions 24, 25 and 26 respectively (Fig. 3). Each haul can be accepted as representative (valid from technical point of view). The herring small-meshed pelagic trawl type WP53/64x4 with 6 mm mesh bar length in the codend was applied for fish spatial distribution and species composition investigations. Trawling operations were performed at the depth range from 25 to 82 m (position of the headrope from the sea surface). Depth to the bottom at trawling positions varied from 37 to 99 m. The trawl mouth vertical opening ranged from 14 to 17 m.

Fishes caught in each control-haul were sorted by species and weighed. The samples for sprat, herring and cod were taken for length/mass measurements and length-mass-age structure analyses. Detailed ichthyological analyses were made in accordance to the ICES-WGBIFS standard procedures (Anon., 2012). Overall, 31, 37 and 21 samples were taken for sprat, herring and cod, respectively. In total, 4277 sprat, 6582 herring and 615 cod individuals were measured for length and mass, out of which 427 sprat, 1098 herring and 208 cod individuals were biologically analyzed (sex, maturity, stomach fullness and age).

The acoustic system calibration was performed with success on 13.09.2012 in the Gulf of Gdansk, at the geographical position: φ=54º33.9'N, λ=018º55.7'E (Fig. 3). In the recent years, the SIMRAD EK-60, split-beam scientific echosounder, with the transceivers working at frequencies of 38 and 120 kHz was used. The new gains were respectively 24.22 dB and 26.72 dB with standard deviation (root mean square) equal 0.10 and 0.11 dB. The distance covered with echosounding was 949 NM (907 NM was planned). The acoustic data were analysed and integrated in the Echoview 5.2 software and later processed in ArcGIS 10.1 to calculate the mean integration values in the ICES rectangles.

In total, 51 hydrological stations were inspected using the Neil-Brown CTD-probe combined with the rosette sampler. One additional hydrological station was realized at the place selected for the acoustic system calibration.

For more survey's details see:

T. Łączkowski, M. Wyszyński, and A. Grelowski (2013). Research report from the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS) on board of the Polish r.v. "Baltica". Working paper on the WGBIFS meeting in Tartu (Estonia); 21-25.03.2013; 18 pp., mimeo.

III G 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The only deviations from the NP were increased number of control hauls during BITS-1Q and BITS-4Q surveys at the request from WGBIFS. .There were no shortfall impairing the quality of the data collected.

The BITS and BIAS surveys data collected by the NMFRI in 2012 are stored in a local fish samples database and were regularly submitted to the internationally co-ordinated databases (TowDatabase, ROSCOP, DATRAS, FishFrame). The surveys data were submitted to the ICES Baltic International Fish Surveys Working Group (WGBIFS) for the analysis and compiled data were provided to the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS) for the assessment of the Baltic fish stocks (cod, flounder, herring, sprat). The surveys data were successfully uploaded to ICES databases and have been checked positively.

The percentage of achieved targets (control-hauls) exceeded planned activities by 11% in case of BITS-1Q and by 19% in case of BITS-4Q surveys, as a result of additional tasks assigned to the Polish research vessel by WGBIFS.

III G 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

There were no specific RCMs recommendations applicable to the research surveys at sea

III G 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No shortfalls were experienced.

IV Module of the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industry

IV A Collection of data concerning the aquaculture

In 2011 the total volume of aquaculture production for consumption was 29.0 thousand tons. Of this, there were 14.4 thousand tons of carp, 11.2 thousand tons of trout, and 3.4 thousand tons of other species. Carp farms are located all over the country but the larger facilities are located in central and southern Poland where climatic conditions are warmer and thus more advantageous. Trout farms are located in the north on the Baltic Sea coast and in southern Poland in the Carpathian foothills in rich terrain with clear, cool waters. Most of aquaculture farms produce more than one species, mainly grass carp, silver carp, bighead carp, crucian carp, pike, European catfish, tench and sturgeon. In addition to the production of fish for consumption, Polish aquaculture produced stocking material for

migratory (anadromous), rheophilic and predatory fish. This material was used to stock open waters, exploited by the Polish Angling Association and other leaseholders, the Baltic Sea and rivers.

The target population for collecting economic data was only fish farms that produced Atlantic salmon stocking material and cooperate with the Panel for Restocking appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

IV A 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

All economic variables concerning the aquaculture as set out in Appendix X of Commission Decision of 18 December 2009 (2010/93/EU 2008) were collected through questionnaires returned by fish farm owners:

- Income:
  -Turnover -per species;
  -Subsidies;
  -Other income.
- Personnel costs:
  - Wages and salaries, including social security costs;
  - Imputed value of unpaid labour
- Energy costs
- Raw material costs
  -Livestock costs
  -Feed costs
- Repair and maintenance costs
- Other operational costs including packaging costs.
- Capital costs
  -Depreciation of capital
  -Financial costs
- To calculate extraordinary costs net,
  - Extraordinary profits
  - Extraordinary losses
- Capital value - total value of fixed and current assets at the end of the year.
- To calculate net Investments
  - purchase of assets during the year;
  - sale of assets during the year
- Debt - all business liabilities, including credits and loans at the end of the fiscal year.
- Raw material volume in tones
  -Livestock
  -Fish Feed
- Volume of sales per species in tones.
- Employment:
  - number of persons employed by gender ;
  - annual worked time in hours, by gender, to calculate FTE based on the Polish reference level for FTE in the reference year. In Poland the full-time basis is regulated in the Labour Law and in general cannot exceed 8 hours per day, which gives of 2016 hours in 2011year.

IV A 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The target population was all fish farms that breed and rear Atlantic salmon fry and cooperate with the Panel for Restocking appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to stocking Polish marine areas and the maintenance and conservation of diadromous fishes in the surface inland waters. In 2011, there were four such farms that breed and rear Atlantic salmon fry and all of them responded to the survey.

IV A 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

To estimate the imputed value of unpaid labour Poland introduced the methodology proposed by STECF-EWG 11-18 Expert Working Group of. October 17 – 21, 2011 (Salerno, Italy).

IV A 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

In order to increase the response rate more attention had been given to the collection of questionnaires with follow up calls and reminder letters.

IV B Collection of data concerning the processing industry

IV B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

All information requested in Appendix XII of Commission Decision of 18 December 2009 (2010/93/EU 2008) were collected through questionnaires returned by fish processing plants owners.

Following information were collected:

- Income:
  - Turnover
  - Subsidies - includes direct payments. Excludes social benefit payments and indirect subsidies.
  - Other income
- Personnel costs:
  - Wages and salaries, including social security costs
  - Imputed value of unpaid labour – in small processing firms a profit will be calculated as the imputed value of unpaid labour of the owner
- Energy costs – expenses for electricity, water, heating, fuel, and gases
- Raw material costs - purchase of fish and other raw material for production
- Other operational costs, including packaging costs, contracted services (such as cleaning fish, transportation, storage, waste removal, etc.), incurred costs such as property and vehicle taxes, property insurance, replacing used work garments, etc.
- Capital costs
  - Depreciation of capital - depreciation of fixed assets and intangible fixed assets were calculated in accordance with annual depreciation rates listed in Appendix 1 of Law of 9 November 2000 to amend the Income Tax Act of individuals and amending certain other laws
  - Financial costs

- Extraordinary costs, net (extraordinary profit from the financial impact of random events that are difficult to predict- extraordinary expenses such as negative financial impact of random events that are difficult to predict).
- Capital value - total value of fixed and current assets at the end of the year.
- Net Investments - purchase and sale of assets during the year.
- Debt - all business liabilities, including credits and loans at the end of the fiscal year.
- Employment
  – average number of persons employed by gender.
  - annual worked time in hours, by gender, to calculate FTE based on the Polish reference level for FTE in the reference year. In Poland the full-time basis is regulated in the Labour Law and in general cannot exceed 8 hours per day, which gives of 2016 hours in 2011year.

IV B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The target population was 179 fish processing plants under NACE Code 10.20: ”Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and mollusks” authorized to sell their products on national and EU market, recorded in the Polish veterinary registry. It was assumed to collect questionnaires from all fish processing companies (there is a legal obligation for the companies to fill them according to the regulation of June 29, 1995 on public statistics (Journal of Laws. No. 88, pos. 439, with later amendments). A 90,5% response rate was achieved. However, since all major players were included, this gives information on almost entire fish processing production in Poland. All questionnaires were verified for consistency, and only information received from verified questionnaires was used to carry out the analysis of the economic results of fish processing.

Economic information was also collected from companies that carry out fish processing but not as a main activity.

IV B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

To estimate the imputed value of unpaid labour Poland introduced the methodology proposed by STECF-EWG 11-18 Expert Working Group of. October 17 – 21, 2011 (Salerno, Italy).

IV B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

In order to increase the response rate more attention were given to the collection of questionnaires with follow up calls and reminder letters.

V Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystem

V 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

No deviation from NP were encountered. Fisheries independent research survey data were collected in 2012 during three surveys called BITS1q, BIAS and BITS4q. Data collected during surveys included data related to four DCF indicators describing the effects of fisheries on the marine ecosystem (conservation status of fish species, proportion of large fish, mean maximum length of fishes and size at maturation of exploited fish species).

VMS data and catch data were collected directly from the national Fishery Monitoring Centre (CMR). In order to combine these data with data collected under the DCF, the VMS and catch data were converted to relevant exchange formats *tacsat* and *eflalo* and uploaded to the Polish DCF database (NPZDRpl). In order to achieve full compatibility with Polish DCF database, the data formats conversion process requires further development due to some changes in the data formats introduced to CMR's database.

V 2 Actions to avoid shortfalls

NA

VI Module for management and use of the data

VI 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

No deviation from NP were encountered. Requirements of data calls were met, including provision of data sets for ICES assessment working groups for Baltic and Atlantic stocks, the STECF Expert Working Groups and RCMs. Poland updated international databases like DATRAS, FISHFRAME, TowDatabase, ROSCOP, BIAS hydroacoustic database.

Poland delivered data in a spectrum that included: effort; quantities landed; quantities discarded; some CPUE data; survey data; length composition of landings; age composition of landings; length composition of discards; age composition of discards; growth; sexual maturity; sex ratios; economic data for the fleets; economic data for the fish processing industry.

Security and data processing capacity of national DCF database ("NPZDRpl") were improved by moving the database from old to new-generation server system.

However, some difficulties were experienced with up-loading data to FishFrame in 2012 due to problems i.a. with data format conversion and therefore, further modification of national data base is required.

VI 2 Actions to avoid shortfalls

With the recent development of Regional Data Base concept (like FishFrame), relevant arrangement were made related to national data base development in order to create appropriate protocols of transferring the data formats compatible with FishFrame formats. Attempts were also made in order to make the national database more user friendly.

VII Follow-up of STECF recommendations

STECF	Recommendation	Follow-up
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that information and description of the method/software used for calculation of CV's should be included (or referred to) in the AR if not provided in NP**	Recommendation followed
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends for the AR tables, Table II.B.1 (list of eligible meetings) that is provided by the Commission should be used and all meetings and not only the meetings attended should be provided.**	Recommendation followed
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that Tables III.C.1 and III.C.2 and III E 1 should not to be deleted from the AR. Maintaining the tables is what is expected. This should be included in the revision of the AR guidelines.**	Recommendation observed
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that MS set-up a website on their data collection. They are obliged (by DCF regulation) to do so. No MS mentioned or referenced in the AR to such websites.**	Recommendation observed
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that in cases that a research vessels is not available for carrying out a contribution to a DCF survey, that MS in question should demonstrate that it made all necessary efforts to carry out the survey. MS must make provisions so that such problems do not happen e.g. seek assistance from other MS or charter a vessel).**	Recommendation noted
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that for the calculation of Capital value, all MS shall use PIM (Perpetual Inventory Method) in the future. A Workshop has already explained the method (DCF Workshop on Capital Valuation, Naples, June 2011). MS should use this report in next AR. Also explore the need for a Training Workshop. This Report should be made available on the on DCF WEB site.**	Recommendation noted and partly followed. Difficulties in applying PIM method explained in AR.
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that files with filters, hidden cells, track changes, coloured cells etc. should not be submitted in AR.**	Recommendation followed
2011	**EWG 11-08 recommends that non conformities in the tables of the AR needs to be explained in the text.**	Recommendation followed
2011	**EWG 11-18 recommends not to address DCF data quality requirements for data which is mandatory to be collected under a different EU legislation**	Recommendation already taken into account

SGRN 10-01	**Some member states plan to sample data on stock-level variables for triennial species annually. Others plan a triennial approach. A common approach in the Baltic would be desirable. In many cases collection of annual data does not cause remarkable extra costs, since métier-level variables are sampled anyway. Task for RCM to decide? SGRN recommend that MS follow the RCM recommendations.**	Poland has followed the discussion
SGRN 10-01	**Overall the MSs need to provide more detailed information on the methods used to collect and analyze economic variables which are not clearly defined in the commission decision (capital value and costs, value of quotas and fishing rights, FTE national, imputed value of unpaid labor and fuel efficiency of fish capture).**	Poland participated in workshop organized to clarify these variables and provided appropriate information.
SGRN 10-01	**Overall most of the MSs need to provide more detailed information and description about the methodologies applied in the estimation process of the economic variables, the methods used to provide measures to assess data quality**	Poland participated in workshop organized to clarify these issues and provided appropriate information. Methods used to asses data quality are provided in data quality chapters.
SGRN 10-01	**Overall most MSs did not provide information for inactive vessels. SGRN invites the MSs to provide information on inactive vessels in the NPs.**	More detailed information was provide AR.
SGRN 2010-02	**Relevant MS to attend the RCM LDF in future if the corresponding MS has a long-distance fishery in "Other regions" and to be equipped with the necessary data, background information and mandate to take decisions.**	Poland is attending RCM LDF

VIII List of acronyms and abbreviations

Acronyms and abbreviations	Names
ICES	INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA
FishFrame	Fisheries & Stock Assessment Data Framework,
ROSCOP	Report of Observations/Samples Collected by Oceanographic Programmes
DATRAS	DATabase of TRAwl Surveys
BAD2	Hydroacustic database survey
TowDatabase	Database for trawl station
WGBFAS	Working group for international research surveys in Baltic
BITS	Baltic International Trawl Surveys
BIAS	Baltic International Acoustic Surveys
RCM	Regional Co-ordination Meeting
LDF	Long Distant Fleet
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization
CECAF	Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic Fishery
SD	Sub-division
WKSMRF	Workshop on Sampling Methods for Recreational Fisheries
NP	National Programme
NMFRI	National Marine Fisheries Research Institute
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
OTB,PTB,MTB,LLK,etc	Fishing gear

IX Comments, suggestions and reflections

None

X References

- ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS] (Anon. 2011, 2012).

- Grygiel, W. and T. Wodzinowski 2012. Research report from the Polish Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS-1Q/2012) in the southern Baltic (13.02. – 01.03.2012). Working paper on the WGBIFS meeting in Helsinki (Finland); 26-30.03.2012; [in:] ICES CM 2012/SSGESST:02, Annex 7; 174-192 pp.

- T. Łączkowski, M. Wyszyński, and A. Grelowski (2013). Research report from the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS) on board of the Polish r.v. "Baltica". Working paper on the WGBIFS meeting in Tartu (Estonia); 21-25.03.2013; 18 pp., mimeo

- Grygiel, W. and T. Wodzinowski 2013. Research report from the Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS-4q) in the Polish part of the southern Baltic (16-28 Nov. 2012). Working paper on the WGBIFS meeting in Tartu (Estonia); 21-25.03.2013; 20 pp., mimeo.

XI Annexes

Annex I. The r/v "Baltica" research surveys map

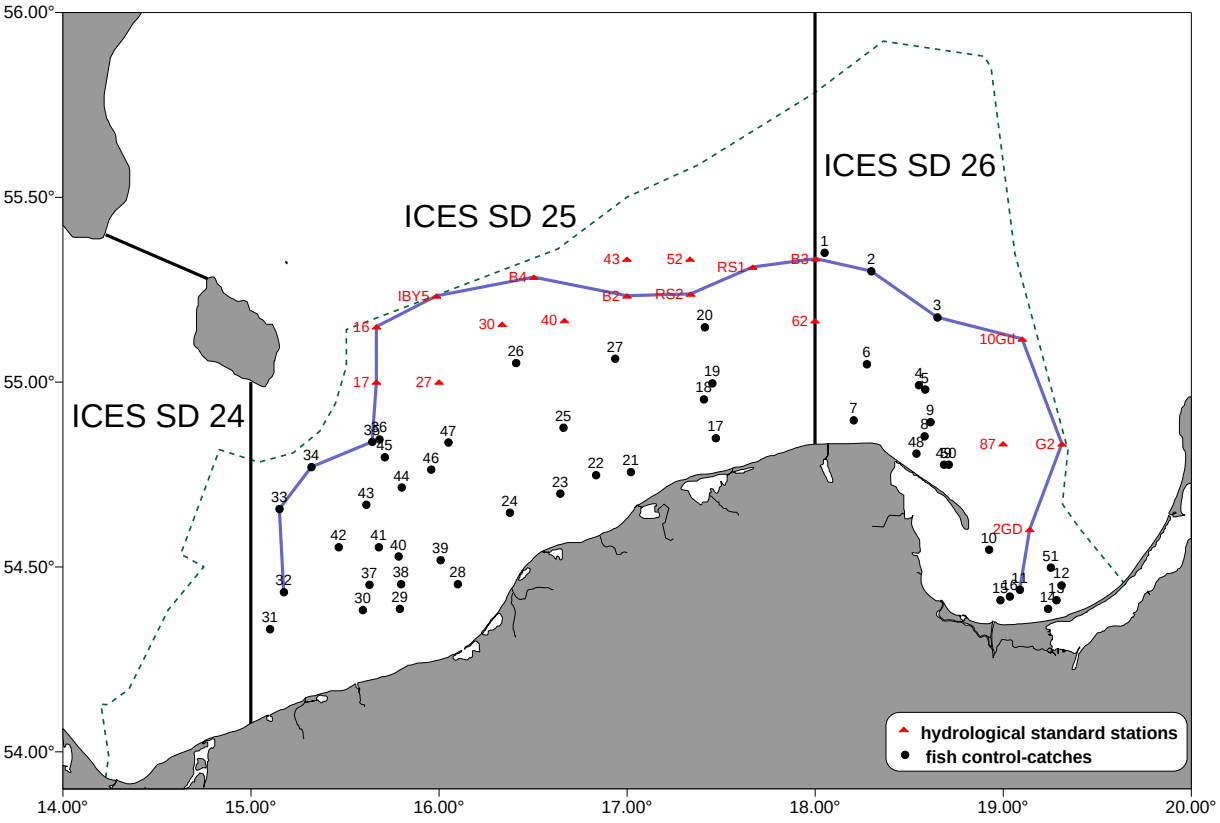

Figure 1. Location of the fish control-catches and the hydrological stations connected with the hauls starting position (black points Nos. 1-51) and the standard hydrographic stations (red triangles) as well as the research hydrological profile (blue line), determined in the Polish EEZ (green dashed line) inspected by the r.v. "Baltica" during the BITS-1Q/2012 survey.

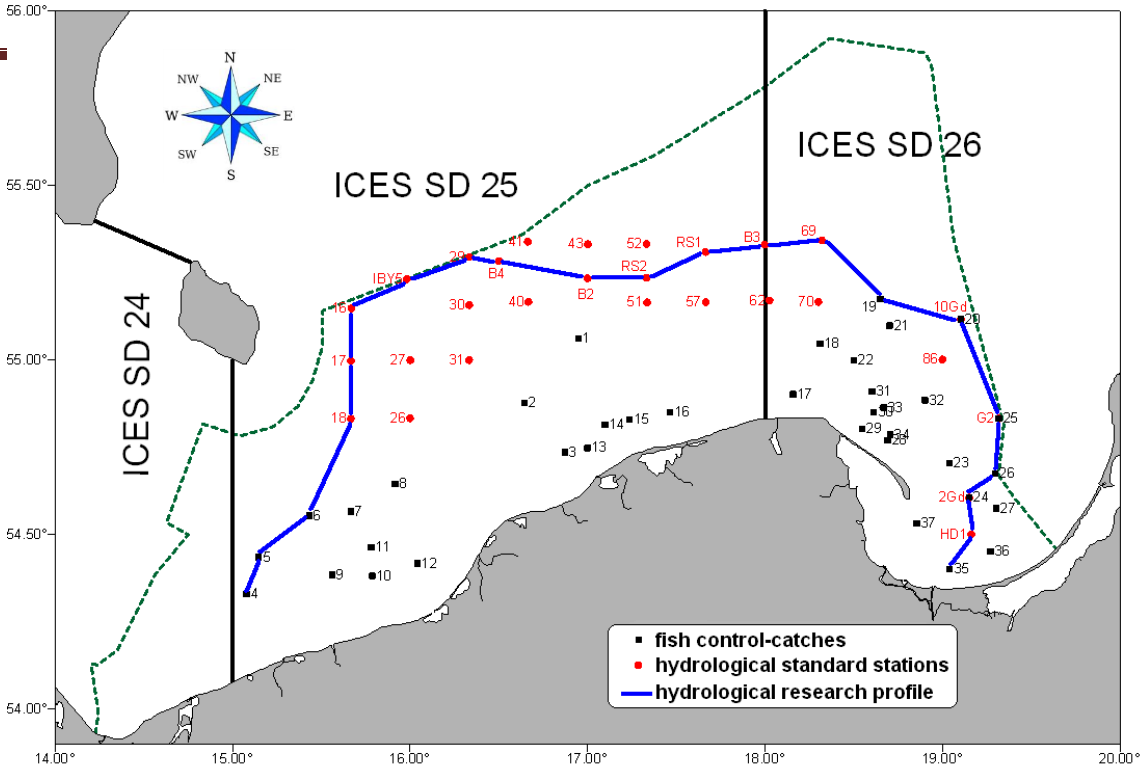

Figure 2. Location of the bottom trawl hauls (Nos. 1-37) and the hydrological standard stations inspected by the r.v. “Baltica” during the BITS-4Q/2012 survey accomplished in the Polish EEZ (green dashed line).

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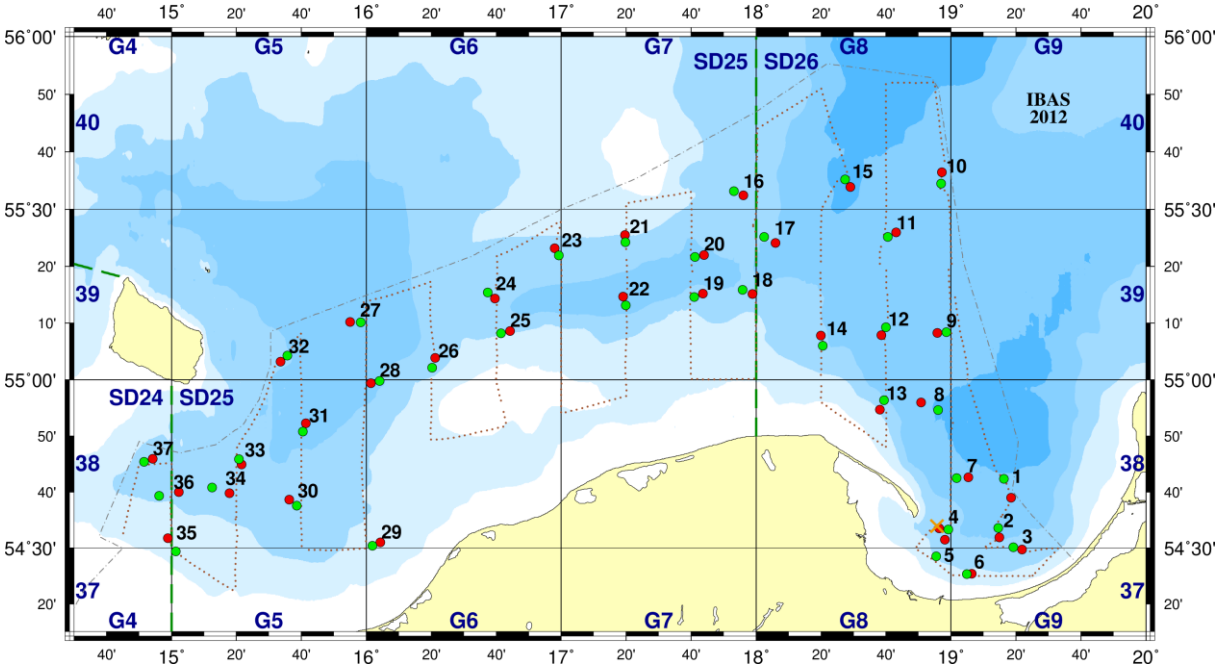

Figure 3. Location of the acoustic transects (dotted line) and the pelagic trawl control-catches (green dots – start of trawling, red dots – end of trawling) linked with the hydrological stations inspected in September 2012 by the r.v. “Baltica”; the orange cross shows the place of acoustic system calibration.

Annex II. Bilateral Agreement with Sweden

Bilateral Agreement between University of Agricultural Science (SLU), Institute of Marine Research Sweden and National Marine Fisheries Research Institute Poland for the collection of length and age samples in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EU

This agreement has been establish between Poland and Sweden due to landings of sprat by Polish flagged vessels take place in Sweden in an amount that it has to be dealt with in a form of bilateral agreement (RCM Baltic 2011).

Agreement:

While sprat in the Baltic is managed as one single stock and that the stock is well covered concerning biological samples, vessels fishing under the Polish register, which land for first sale into Sweden, will be sampled as part of the Polish National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008).

Description of sampling:

The sampling will be for length and age of discards and landings, sampling will be carried out in accordance with the Polish National Sampling Programme.

Data responsibility:

Sweden is responsible for submitting the data from Swedish vessels, and Poland in the case of sampling Polish vessels, to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of Data Collection Framework. Both Member States will provide the required data for the species that are requested by the relevant ICES Expert Groups as and when requested.

Contact persons:

In Sweden (SLU): Maria Hansson: maria.hansson@slu.se

In Poland (NMFRI): Iwo Wójcik: iwojcik@mir.gdynia.pl

Signatures:

For Sweden (SLU)

Maria Hansson

National Correspondent, Sweden

For Poland (NMFRI)

Zbigniew Karnicki

National Correspondent, Poland

Date: 1 okt 2011

Annex III. Multilateral agreement for biological data collection in CECAF area

Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters

Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland agree to co-operate in the biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters in 2012 and 2013. This agreement is in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation 199/2008 and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU.

Having regard the above mentioned Regulations and Decisions and the project description "Biological Data Collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF water in compliance with the DCF" as discussed at the Regional Coordination Meeting for Long Distance Fisheries in Slovenia, May 2011, the following details apply to this agreement:

Partners
The following institutes are considered as partner within this agreement:

Member State	Institute	Coordinator
Germany	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (vTI)	C. Stransky
Latvia	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and environment	G. Kornilovs
Lithuania	The Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	V. Grušauskas
The Netherlands	Centre for Fisheries Research (CVO)	H.A. van Beek
Poland	Sea Fisheries Institute	I. Wojcik

Coordination
The Netherlands coordinate the execution of this multi-lateral agreement. The Netherlands will contract independent contractor 'Corten Marine Research' (CMR) as agent between The Netherlands and IMROP, the Mauritanian Fisheries Research Institute. CMR will hire Mauritanian observers from IMROP to carry out the actual sampling. CMR and IMROP will have an agreement in which the mutual obligations will be formalized; among others that only the additional costs for this specific task will be priced.

Sampling protocol
Biological sampling is carried on board fishing vessels in CECAF area by Mauritanian observers. These observers are instructed by CMR and follow the sampling protocol as described in "Biological Data Collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters in compliance with the DCF", version 31-05-2011.

Data responsibility
CMR is responsible for data collection, quality control and delivery to the CECAF pelagic working group of all data collected under this agreement. CMR also reports all data to CVO and CVO will distribute the data to Partners.

Costs
The total costs for the sampling programme amount € 64,768,= per year. This sampling programme is eligible for 50% funding under the current DCF. The Netherlands will include the total costs in its Annual Cost Statement. The remaining 50% of the costs (€ 32,384,–) is paid for by all partners following a key based on average catches in 2006-2010.

Contributor	Share catches (2006-2010)	Contribution	Amount (€/year)
Netherlands	30,53%	30,53% of 32,384	9,887
Germany	3,76%	3,76% of 32,384	1,224
Poland	6,07%	6,07% of 32,384	1,966
Lithuania	32,67%	32,67% of 32,384	10,579
Latvia	26,95%	26,95% of 32,384	8,728
		Subtotal partners	***32,384***
EU (through DCF)	-	50% of 64,768	32,384
		Total contribution	***64,768***

The Netherlands sends each Partner an invoice per year, to which normal financial conditions apply.

Access to vessels
On top of Council Regulation 199/2008 (Section 2, Article 11), each Partner ensures access to its fleet for Mauritanian observers under this agreement. Denied access to vessels does not exempt a Partner from legal or financial obligations.

Term
This agreement commences on January 1, 2012. With exception of financial obligations, this agreement ends on December 31, 2013. This agreement, with exception of financial obligations, is subject to dissolve prior to this date in case the pelagic fishery in the CECAF area by EU vessels closes. Eventual remaining contributions will be pro rata reimbursed to Partners.

Signatures

Member State	Name	Function	Signature
Germany	Christoph Stransky	National Correspondent	Date: 23/06/2011
The Netherlands	Dirkjan van der Stelt	National Correspondent	Date: 23/06/11
Latvia	<NAAM>	<FUNCTIE>	Date:_____
Lithuania	<NAAM>	<FUNCTIE>	Date:_____
Poland	Ireneusz Wojcik	Senior Specialist	Date: 23/06/11

Contributor	Share catches (2006-2010)	Contribution	Amount (€/year)
Netherlands	30,53%	30,53% of 32,384	9,887
Germany	3,76%	3,76% of 32,384	1,224
Poland	6,07%	6,07% of 32,384	1,966
Lithuania	32,67%	32,67% of 32,384	10,579
Latvia*	26,95%	26,95% of 32,384	8,728
		Subtotal partners	***32,384***
EU (through DCF)	-	50% of 64,768	32,384
		Total contribution	***64,768***

*Latvia performs the payment if the necessary financing is available

The Netherlands sends each Partner an invoice per year, to which normal financial conditions apply.

Access to vessels
On top of Council Regulation 199/2008 (Section 2, Article 11), each Partner ensures access to its fleet for Mauritanian observers under this agreement. Denied access to vessels does not exempt a Partner from legal or financial obligations.

Term
This agreement commences on January 1, 2012. With exception of financial obligations, this agreement ends on December 31, 2013. This agreement, with exception of financial obligations, is subject to dissolve prior to this date in case the pelagic fishery in the CECAF area by EU vessels closes. Eventual remaining contributions will be pro rata reimbursed to Partners.

Signatures

Member State	Name	Function	Signature
Germany	Christoph Stransky	National Correspondent	Date:_____
The Netherlands	Dirkjan van der Stelt	National Correspondent	Date:_____
Latvia	Georgs Kornilovs	National Correspondent	Date:30.06.2011.
Lithuania			Date:_____
Poland	Ireneusz Wojcik	Senior Specialist	Date:_____

Contributor	Share catches 2006-2010	Contribution	Amount €/year
Netherlands	30,53%	30,53% of 32,384	9,887
Germany	3,76%	3,76% of 32,384	1,224
Poland	6,07%	6,07% of 32,384	1,966
Lithuania	32,67%	32,67% of 32,384	10,579
Latvia	26,95%	26,95% of 32,384	8,728
		Subtotal partners	***32,384***
EU (through DCF)	-	50% of 64,768	32,384
		Total contribution	***64,768***

The Netherlands sends each Partner an invoice per year, to which normal financial conditions apply.

Access to vessels
On top of Council Regulation 199/2008 (Section 2, Article 11), each Partner ensures access to its fleet for Mauritanian observers under this agreement. Denied access to vessels does not exempt a Partner from legal or financial obligations.

Term
This agreement commences on January 1, 2012. With exception of financial obligations, this agreement ends on December 31, 2013. This agreement, with exception of financial obligations, is subject to dissolve prior to this date in case the pelagic fishery in the CECAF area by EU vessels closes. Eventual remaining contributions will be pro rata reimbursed to Partners.

Signatures

Member State	Name	Function	Signature
Germany	Christoph Stransky	National Correspondent	Date: 2011-06-23
The Netherlands	Dirkjan van der Stelt	National Correspondent	Date:2011-06-23
Latvia	Georgs Kornilovs	National Correspondent	Date: 2011-06-30
Lithuania	Vytautas Grušauskas	Director	Date: 2011-09-12
Poland	Ireneusz Wojcik	Senior Specialist	Date: 2011-06-23