



**POLISH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
COLLECTION OF FISHERIES DATA FOR 2013**

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.....	18
III.B 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls.....	18
III B	Other regions.....	19
III B 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	19
III B 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal.....	19
III.B 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations.....	19
III.B 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls.....	19
III C	Metier-related variables.....	19
III C	Baltic Sea.....	19
III C 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	19
III C 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal.....	22
III C 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations.....	22
III C 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls.....	23
III C	North Sea and Eastern Arctic.....	23
III C 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	23
III C 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal.....	24
III C 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations.....	24

III C 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	24
III C	Other regions	24
III C 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	24
III C 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	24
III C 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	25
III C 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	25
III D	Recreational fisheries	25
III D 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	25
III D 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	26
III D 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	26
III D 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	26
III E	Stock-related variables	27
III E	Baltic Sea	27
III E 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	27
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	30
III E	North Sea and Eastern Arctic	30
III E 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	30
III E 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	30
III E 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	30
III E 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	31
III E	Other regions	31
III E 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	31
III E 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	31
III E 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	32
III E 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	32
III F	Transversal variables	32
III F 1	Capacity	32
III F 2	Effort	32
III F 3	Landings	33

III G	Research surveys at sea	33
III G 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	34
III G 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	37
III G 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	38
III G 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	38
IV	Module of the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industry.....	38
IV A	Collection of data concerning the aquaculture	38
IV A 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	38
IV A 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	39
IV A 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	39
IV A 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	39
IV B	Collection of data concerning the processing industry	39
IV B 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	39
IV B 2	Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal	40
IV B 3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations	41
IV B 4	Actions to avoid shortfalls	41
V	Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystem	41
V 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	41
V 2	Actions to avoid shortfalls	41
VI	Module for management and use of the data	41
VI 1	Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal	41
VI 2	Actions to avoid shortfalls	42
VII	Follow-up of STECF recommendations	43
VIII	List of acronyms and abbreviations	44
IX	Comments, suggestions and reflections	44
X	References	45
XI	Annexes	46

I General framework

Polish Annual Report covers fisheries, biological, and economical sampling activities in 2013, 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 2013 was prepared within the framework of the National Program for 2013 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 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 biological data	Baltic Sea	Approved	2011	Recreational fishing for salmon accidentally takes place in rivers while open sea angling in Polish waters did not occur.
Eel recreational fishery	NP 2011-2013, Section III D 6	Catch, effort and biological data	Baltic Sea	Approved	2011	Eel recreational fishery to 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

						<p>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. Actually 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.</p> <p><i>(Exemption rule – Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, Annex, Chapter III, section B/B2/5 and RCM NS&EA 2011)</i></p>
Saithe	NP 2012, Sections III C 6 & III E 6	Metier and stock related variables	NS&EA	Approved	2012	<p>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.</p>

						<p>Sufficient quota availability in 2012-2013 is highly uncertain.</p> <p><i>(Exemption rule – Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, Annex, Chapter III, section B/B2/5 and RCM NS&EA 2011)</i></p>
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II National data collection organization

II A. National correspondent and participating institutions

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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, executed solely by the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Gdynia is financed through the contract with the Minister 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 process but contains basic information and references related to data collection programme.

In 2013 one national coordination meeting was held between the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and NMFRI. The meeting was called *ad hoc* and took place in July in Warsaw at the premises of the Ministry. The main issues discussed were the funding of the National Programme and the delay in conclusion of the annual agreement between NMFRI and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on the execution of NP 2013, as well as the need for formal arrangements regarding the NMFRI's access to VMS and fishing logbooks data. Following this meeting, the annual agreement on the execution of NP 2013 was finally agreed on and signed in September 2013 and the agreement on the access to VMS and fishing logbooks data was drafted.

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 33 international meetings indicated in the annual budget forecast for 2013 as planned to attend, Poland participated in 25 meetings, 6 meetings were cancelled. Poland did not attend 2 meetings for reasons given below:

<i>Meeting planned but not attended</i>	<i>Reason</i>
WKPELA	Although the attendance at the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks was originally planned, the decision was taken not to participate in the meeting because WKPELA dealt with stocks for which Poland has either very limited fishery and data (herring in Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22–24) or no fisheries and data at all (anchovy in Subarea VIII and sardine in Subarea VII and Divisions VIIIa, b, d).
SGVMS / WGSFD	The person planned to attend the meeting of the Study Group on VMS data, its storage, access and tools for analysis (renamed Working Group on Spatial Fisheries Data - WGSFD) could not participate due to other duties (attendance at the RCM NS&EA).

II B 2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

A list of relevant recommendations from all RCMs, addressed by the 8th, 9th and 10th Liaison Meetings (2011-2013) 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	For institutes collecting small volumes of age	Poland followed the

Baltic 2011 (LM 13)	<p>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:</p> <p>(1) Germany: plaice and dab (2) Denmark: plaice, dab and sole (3) Poland: flounder and turbot (4) Sweden: eel and salmon (5) Finland: salmon</p> <p>The suggested coordination should be discussed, agreed and decided by the National Correspondents.</p>	<p>recommendation and notified the Chair of RCM Baltic that had no capability yet to read age of flounder and turbot samples from other MS.</p>
RCM NS&EA 2012 and RCM NA 2012	<p>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. ...</p> <p>.... 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).</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 806 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 29 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 2009.

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 (€2.1 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 2012 consisted of 3 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 could not be reported). In 2012 this segment consisted of 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 four segments. To the segment Drift and fixed netters 12-18m (initially clustered with Drift and fixed netters 18-24m), was added one vessel using active and passive gears 12-18 m, which used mostly passive gears and 3 Vessels using hooks 12-18m. Due to insufficient number of units segment of vessels using hooks 12-18 it has been deleted from the list. Segment Demersal trawlers and seiners 12-18m contains Vessels using active and passive gears 12-18 m, which used mostly active gears and Pelagic trawlers 12-18m. It has been created a cluster Demersal trawlers and seiners 18-24m, which contains so far separate segments Demersal trawlers and seiners 18-24m and Demersal trawlers and seiners 24-40m. Clusters Passive gears 0-10m and Pelagic trawlers 24-40m remained unchanged as proposed in NP.

Table 1. III B 1 Volume of catches of clustered segments, 2012.

Segments - clustered	Segments - before clustering	tons	%	type of segment
PG VL0010	VL0010 DTS	48	1%	N
	VL0010 PG	8 170	99%	I
PG VL0010 - total		8 218	100%	
DFN VL1218	VL1218 DFN	2 143	89%	I
	VL1218 HOK	55	2%	N
	VL1218 PMP	132	5%	S
	VL1824 DFN	84	3%	S
DFN VL1218 - total		2 414	100%	
DTS VL1218	VL1012 DTS	1 712	10%	S
	VL1218 DTS	13 650	81%	I
	VL1218 PMP	393	2%	S
	VL1218 TM	1 123	7%	N
DTS VL1218 - total		16 877	100%	
DTS VL1824	VL1824 DTS	7 885	93%	I
	VL2440 DTS	617	7%	N
DTS VL1824 - total		8 502	100%	
TM VL2440	VL1824 TM	5 306	7%	S
	VL2440 TM	70 147	88%	I
	VL40XX TM	4 260	5%	S
TM VL2440 - total		79 712	100%	

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 using mostly bottom trawl was merged with passive gear 0-10m vessels segment consisting of 455 units. This vessel accounted for only 0,6% of the total catches of the whole cluster (2012) and targeted similar species to other boats below 10 m length (herring -32%, flatfish -20%, cod – 15%).

Drift and fixed netters 12-< 18 m (DFN VL1218)

. The clustered segment drift and fixed netters 12-< 18 m consist of 42 vessels with dominant role of drift and fixed netters (38 vessels). Vessels clustered in this segment targeted cod (92%) and flatfishes (7%). Clustered vessels, which belonged to the segments Vessels using active and passive gears 12-18 m and Vessels using hooks 12-18m targeted cod and flatfish mostly.

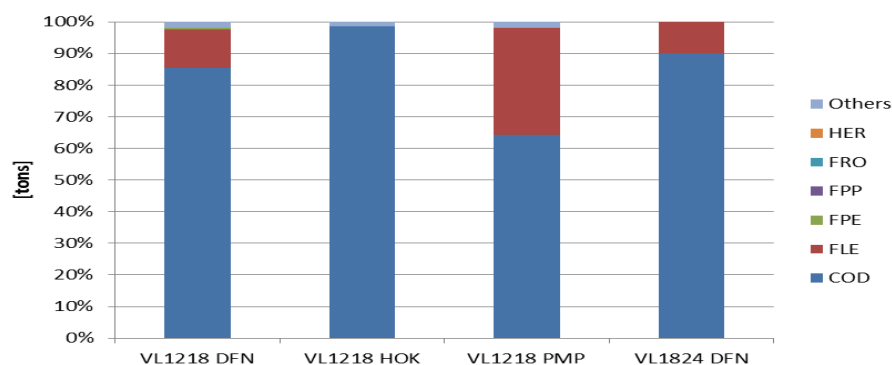


Figure 1. III B1 Drift and fixed netters 12-< 18 m – composition of catches of clustered vessels

Demersal trawlers and seiners 12-< 18 m (VL1218 DTS)

The clustered segment consisted of 79 vessels. Demersal trawlers and seiners 12-< 18 m segment had dominant role (81% of total cluster catches). The species composition of catches of other segments in this cluster was different from the dominant segment however the other segments are characterized by similar technical parameters (same length classes). Vessels from this clustered segment targeted mostly, cod 30% flatfish 29% and sprat 22%.

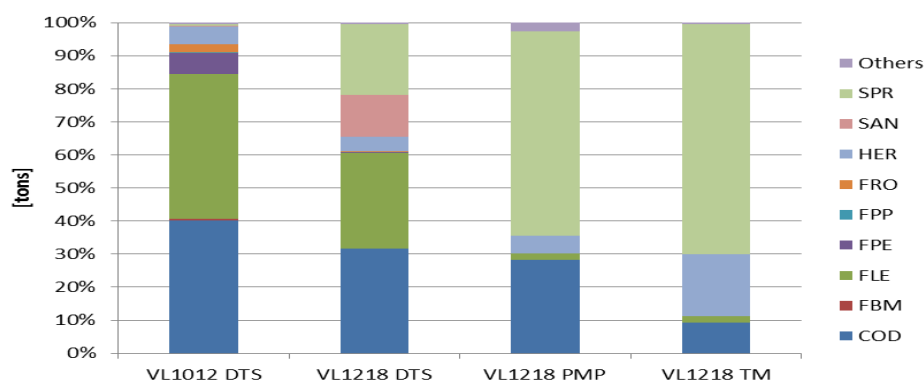


Figure 2. III B1 Demersal trawlers 12-< 18 m – composition of catches of clustered vessels

Demersal trawlers and seiners 18-< 24 m (VL1218 DTS)

39 vessels belonged to this cluster in 2012 out of which 34 were Demersal trawlers 18-< 24 m and 5 in Demersal trawlers 24-< 40 m. 37% of cluster catches was sprat, 35% - cod and 17% flatfishes. Vessels of 24-40 meters length were strictly targeted demersal species (thus considered very distinct compared to Pelagic trawlers 24-40 meters segment).

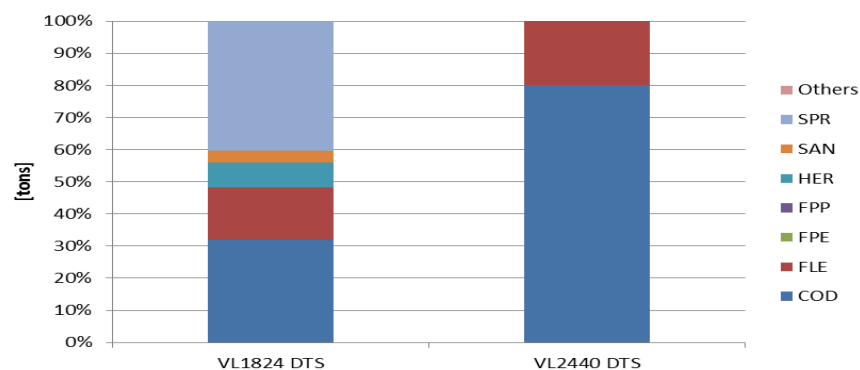


Figure 3. III B1 Demersal trawlers 18-< 24 m – composition of catches of clustered vessels

Pelagic trawlers 24-40 m (VL2440 TM)

The clustered segment consists of 47 vessels belonging to three segments: Pelagic trawlers 18-< 24 m (8 vessels), Pelagic trawlers 24-< 40 m (38 vessels) and Pelagic trawlers over 40 m (1 vessel). Similar gears used and similar catch composition (over 90% of catches were pelagic species) was a reason for the decision to merge these three groups of vessels into one.

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 scrapping 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 withdrawn with public assistance, it is considered that financial compensation has significant influence on capital value (market value of second hand vessels). 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.

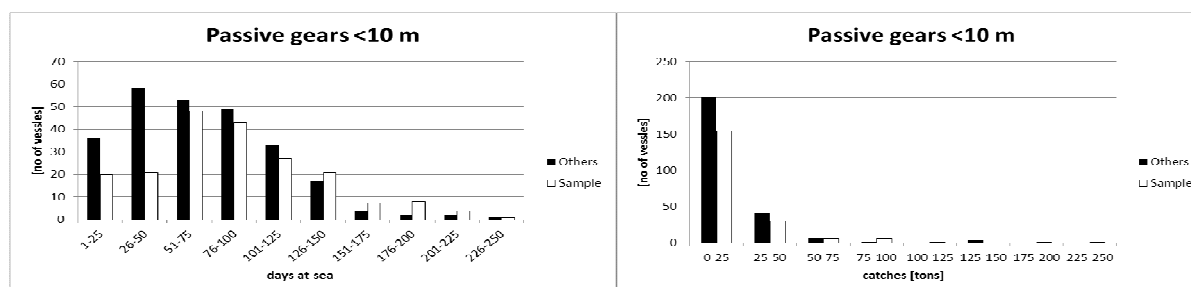
III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

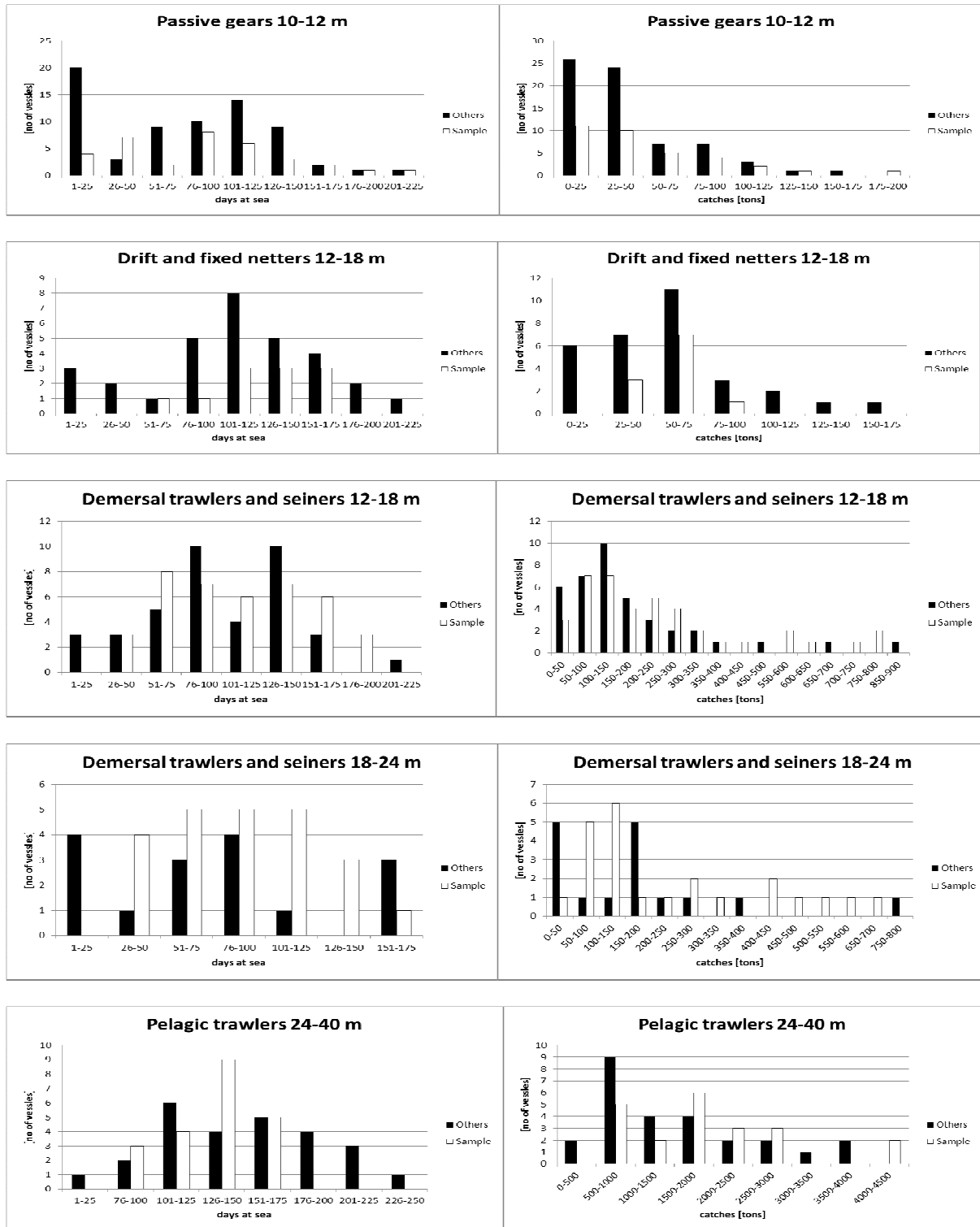
No deviation compared to NP proposal took place.

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.

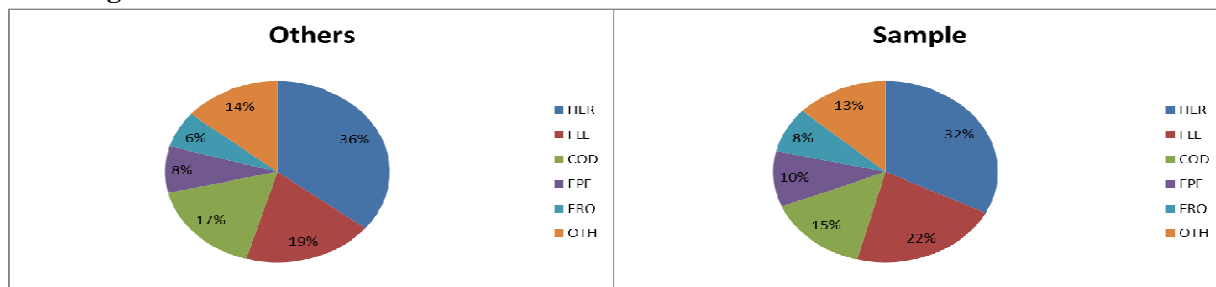
Representativeness

There is no standard approach implemented on how the representativeness of the data can be evaluated. An analysis of the frequency distribution of two variables: volume of catches and effort (days at sea) was performed to check similarity between the sample and the total population. The results presented on graphs below show that there is a little difference between sampled group of vessels and the total population. Species composition of catches by segment confirms as well a good similarity.

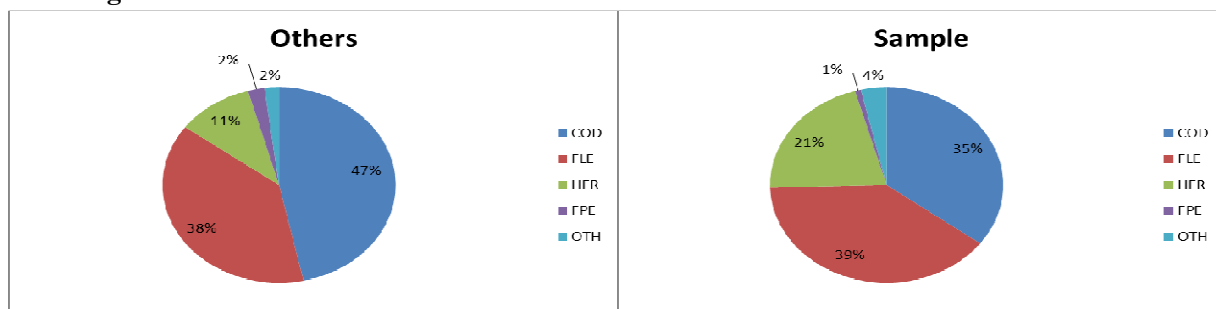




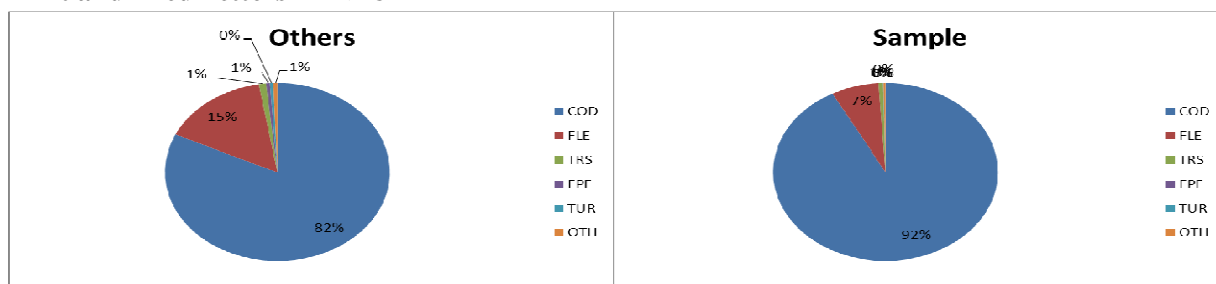
Passive gears 0-10m



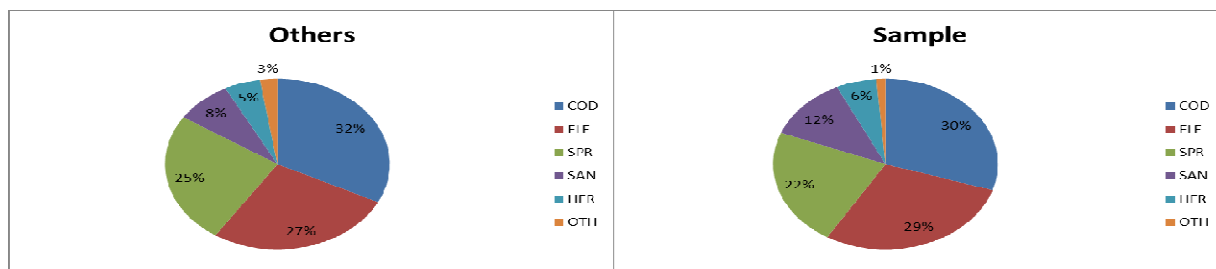
Passive gears 10-12m



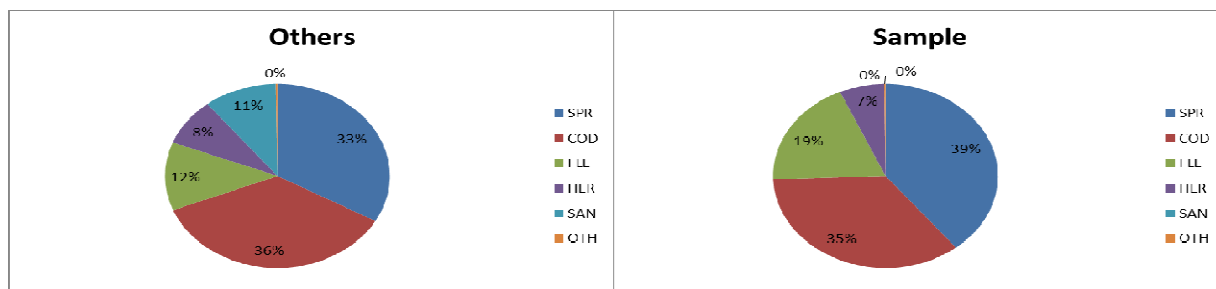
Drift and fixed netters 12-< 18 m



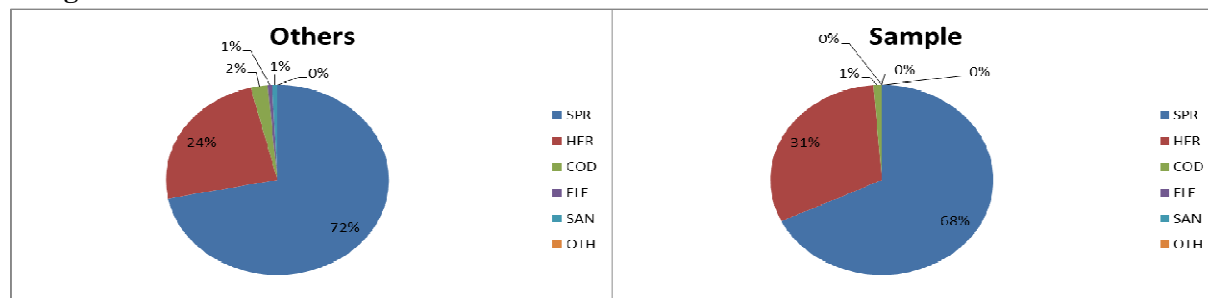
Demersal trawlers and seiners 12-< 18 m



Demersal trawlers and seiners 18-< 24 m



Pelagic trawlers 24-40 m



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

RCM NS&EA Recommendations

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Planned responsive actions</i>
<i>Economic variables: sampling strategy for the collection of economic variables</i>	
<p>The RCM NS &EA recommends the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Methodology of economic variables collection has been provided in NP. Additional relevant information are provided in the Report.</p>
<i>Economic variables: Clustering of fleet segments</i>	
<p>The RCM NS &EA recommends that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Poland adhered to suggested recommendations when clustering fleet segments.</p>

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, 48 and 87 (CECAF, CCAMLR and SPRMFO), were excluded from economic analysis. Complete data were collected but cannot be reported. In 2012 this segment consisted of 2 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 5 trips out of 7 planned for each métier in those two areas were sampled respectively (the achievement of 71 %). Those métiers are mainly targeting typical freshwater species, pike perch and perch (GNS_FWS_>0_0_0), and European eel (FPO_FWS_>0_0_0) and the fishery is conducted on shallow lagoons by small fishing boats (of length less than 10 m). The main reason for under-sampling trips with those métiers in 2013 were the safety constraints (not all boats were in possession of Safety Certificate allowing acceptance an observer on board).

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

Nine trips of LLD_ANA_0_0_0 métier were sampled (as compared to 8 trips planned).

Demersal métiers (OTB_DEF, GNS_DEF, LLS_DEF) selected by the ranking system for sampling separately in SD 22-24 and 25-32 were under-sampled in 4 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 and 2012), was very low level of the cod TAC quota utilization in 2013 (53% in SD 22-24 and 60% in SD-25-32) and lower catch level of 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 2013 the cod catch in SD 22-24 dropped to 708 tonnes only (decrease by 70% as compared to 2007).

With lower catches, the number of trips available for sampling in SD 22-24, significantly decreased (from 2096 in the reference period to 1004 in 2013 for GNS_DEF and from 761 in the reference period to 401 in 2013 for OTB_DEF) and, to some extent, they were compensated by the increase in number of trips sampled in corresponding métiers in SD 25-32 (OTB_DEF and GNS_DEF, represent the largest share of demersal fishing trips in the SD-25-32, reaching 97%). 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 2013.

Demersal fish métier (OTB_DEF) in SD 22-24 and in SD 25-32 was sampled in 4 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 14 trips for this métier were actually sampled in SD 22-24, whereas 26 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 in that area and overall lower fishing activity (total number of trips with the use of GNS_DEF métier in 2013 was lower by 47% 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 – 20 t and 1.5 t respectively (2,9% of the total cod catch in SD 22-24 and less than 0.5% of the total flatfishes catch in SD 22-24). In SD 25-32, 5 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 2013 was lower by 89% in SD 22-24 and by 66% 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 two trips were sampled on shore and four trips were sampled at sea, 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 one trip to be sampled on shore with one trip sampled at sea. Main reason for that change in the planned sampling strategy was the fact that there were limited number of vessels fishing with this métier operating in that area and it was difficult to place the observers on board the vessels in that fishing ground, mainly due to safety reason.

For OTM_SPF_32-104 métier, targeting herring in SD 25-32, total of 11 trips were sampled (10 trips on shore and 1 trip at sea), as compared to 18 trips planned (12 trips on shore and 6 trips at sea respectively). The reason for under-sampling of this métier was an early herring catch quota utilization – in September 2013 a ban for fishery targeting herring (using OTM_SPF_32-104_0_0 metier) was put in force.

Although total of 6 trips were planned to sample the merged OTB/PTB_SPF_32-104 métier in SD 25-32, only one at sea trip were sampled in 2013 due to significant decline in the use of these gears in the herring fishery (reduction from 710 trips in the reference period to 31 in the sampling year, i.e. by 96%) and closure of herring fishery in September 2013, 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 six 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 65% in number of trips compared to the reference years) as well as closure of herring fishery in September 2013 in SD 25-32.

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 two trips were actually sampled, due closure of herring fishery in September 2013 in SD 25-32.

For OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0 métier for sprat targeting fishery in the ICES SD 22-24 and SD 25-32, one and 21 trips were sampled respectively, as compared to 6 and 28 trips planned for sampling in 2013 respectively. The 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 99%) took place in SD 25-32. Therefore, sampling effort were concentrated in SD 25-32, where this metier was mainly used, but a shortfall in sampling in SDs 25-26 did also occur because as early as in May 2013 a ban for fishery targeting sprat SDs 22-32 (using OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0 metier) was put in force. 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 sampling:

Out of 21 fish stocks sampled for length (11 species), 12 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 samples processing which, however, did not result in budget excess.

Undersampling in length measurement occurred in case of three species only (*Gadus morhua* and *Pleuronectes platessa* in SD 22-24 and *Salmo trutta* in SD 25-32) due to either low level of the catch quota utilization (in case of cod in SD 22-24) 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 22-24, i.e. plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*), perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*) 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.	NMFRI 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	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	Poland follows the recommendation. Bilateral agreements were set in 2011 with Sweden (Annex II) and in 2013 with Denmark (Annex III). Further potential

2012	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>bilateral agreements are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame.</p>
RCM NA 2011 (LM 27)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Poland follows the recommendation.</p> <p>Bilateral agreements were set in 2011 with Sweden (Annex II) and in 2013 with Denmark (Annex III)</p> <p>Further potential bilateral agreements are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame.</p>

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 2013 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 2013 sampling year – i.e., DEF_>120_0_0 targeting cod, and this target was met.

In case of cod fished by Polish vessel in the Eastern Arctic with the use of that metier, in total, 11763 individual fish from area IIb and 3774 individual fish from area I 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

Problems were encountered with obtaining reliable CV value for length sampling of cod from ICES area II due to some errors in statistical areas coding found in the fisheries administration's database. Despite the effort to solve these problems, at the time of finalizing this report they were not solved.

III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

There were no relevant recommendations from the Liaison Meetings to be addressed in 2013.

III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No action required, except securing the compatibility of statistical areas coding between DCF national database and national fisheries administration's database. The work is already in progress.

III C Other regions

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

CECAF

Sampling in 2013 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 IV.

The above joint sampling programme is coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands' Annual Report 2013.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2013.

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

CECAF

Sampling in 2013 was arranged through agreed joint sampling programme, coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands' Annual Report 2013.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2013.

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 landings and discards.	Recommendation fulfilled – joint sampling program set in 2011 – see Annex IV
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
RCM LDF 2013	RCM LDF recommends to renew a joint observer program in the pelagic trawl fishery for small pelagic species in the CECAF area for another two years period.	Recommendation fulfilled – Amendment extending the joint sampling program for 2014-2015 was signed by Poland - see Annex V
RCM LDF 2013	RCM LDF recommends the implementation of the multilateral agreement on a joint sampling program of fisheries activity in the SPRMFO area	Recommendation noted – drafting of the new agreement planned in 2014

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 2013 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 10 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 12 angling trips with observers on-board.

The tasks set in NP were fulfilled

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 caught 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 12 trips in 2013 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

No action required.

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: There were shortfall in number of fish measured for age for both stocks of herring – by 16% in case of SD22-24 stock and by 51% in case of SD 25-32 stock. The intention was to collect sufficient number of samples for detailed biological analyses from both trips sampled on shore and trips sampled at sea, but it was not achieved due to reduced number of trips sampled in 2013 for reasons explained in section III C 1 (Baltic).

Sprattus sprattus SD22-32: Baltic sprat was sampled slightly in excess of the planned level (by 13%) but within an acceptable limits.

Gadus morhua SD22-24, SD25-32: Baltic cod stock SD22-24 was undersampled by 50% in terms of number of fish measured for length, weight, sex, age and maturity. The main reason for the shortfall were low level of the cod TAC quota utilization in 2012 in SD 22-24 (only 53%) and overall dramatic decrease in cod fishery (by 70% 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, which was mainly caused by 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: Flounder was sampled slightly in excess of the planned level (by 44%) but within an acceptable limits.

Pleuronectes platessa SD22-32: Plaice was sampled in excess of the planned level, partly due to oversampling of commercial catches and partly due to unexpectedly high abundance of plaice caught in the control hauls during the BITS-1Q and BITS-4Q surveys (in total 264 specimens).

Psetta maxima SD22-32: Turbot was sampled slightly in excess of the planned level (by 33%) but within an acceptable limits.

Salmo salar SD22-31: Salmon was sampled slightly in excess of the planned level (by 17%) but within an acceptable limits. 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: There were a shortfall in sampling Sea trout (by 65%). Although all 9 planned trips with the use of metier targeting Sea trout were sampled, it was not possible to obtain sufficient number of fish, both from self-sampling or from the market, to achieve the target.

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 IIb-d: There were no significant shortfalls in the sampling biological variables for European eel. This species was under-sampled only by 4%, thus within an acceptable limits.

III E 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 biological parameters were achieved only in 14 cases, out of total 43. In general, the precision 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

<p>RCM NS&EA 2011 (LM 50)</p>	<p>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. .</p>	<p>Sampling by Poland takes into account this recommendation.</p> <p>This issue is on-going and it is expected that it will be addressed by the revised DCF</p>
<p>RCM NS&EA 2012</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Poland follows the recommendation.</p> <p>Bilateral agreements were set in 2011 with Sweden and in 2013 with Denmark.</p> <p>Further potential bilateral agreements are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame.</p>
<p>RCM NA 2012</p>	<p>RCM NA recommends MS put in place bilateral agreements for sampling of landings abroad where applicable.</p>	<p>Poland follows the recommendation.</p> <p>Bilateral agreements were set in 2011 with Sweden and in 2013 with Denmark.</p> <p>Further potential bilateral agreements are under evaluation, pending the analysis of foreign landings based on the complete data uploaded to FishFrame.</p>

In addition to bilateral or multilateral agreements referred to in the previous sections, in 2013 Poland renewed the bilateral agreement with Finland on the collection and genetic analysis of salmon catch samples (Annex VI) and signed a bilateral agreement with Germany on collection of biological data for European eel (Annex VII).

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 2013 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 required annual precision targets (CV) related to cod from ICES area IIb were achieved only in case of parameter length@age. For weight@age and sex-ratio@age parameters the precision achieved 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 métier 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 fulfilled. Poland uploaded data to FishFrame.
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RCM NS & EA 2011	<p>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.</p> <p>Databases structures should allow storage of linked age and length samples.</p> <p>Collection regulations should not encourage the collection of length only data at the expense of age sampling for species subject to age based assessments.</p>	<p>Sampling by Poland takes into account this recommendation.</p> <p>This issue is on-going and it is expected that it will be addressed by the revised DCF.</p>
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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 2013 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 2013.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2013.

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

CECAF

Sampling in 2013 was arranged through agreed joint sampling programme, coordinated by the Netherlands. Sampling activities and achievements are to be described in the Netherlands’ Annual Report 2013.

SPRMFO

There were no fishing activity in the SPRMFO area by Polish vessels in 2013.

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)
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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 or monthly reports (vessels lower than 8 m). 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 as of 2012 January 1st).

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 using vessel register, logbooks or monthly catch declarations in case of vessels less than 8 meter length.

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 2 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No action required.

III F 3 Landings

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

Information was 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, were collected but could not be reported for “Other regions” where small number of vessels (3 units) operated. 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 2013, 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 internally with the number 2/2013/MIR, was accomplished in the period of 14.02-01.03.2013, within the framework of the Baltic International Trawl Surveys long-term programme,
- the acoustic and pelagic-trawl survey (BIAS), marked internally with the number 16/2013/MIR, was realised in the period of 16.09-4.10.2013, within the framework of the Baltic International Acoustic Surveys long-term programme,

- the bottom-trawl survey (BITS-4Q), marked internally with the number 21/2013/MIR, was conducted in the period of 15-27.11.2013, 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. 2012, 2013).

III G 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

• **BITS-1Q/2013 survey:** overall, 16 days at sea were used for fulfilling the survey purposes (and 16 days were originally planned). The r.v. "Baltica" realized 48 bottom trawl catch-stations at location randomly selected by WGBIFS - out of 49 planned by WGBIFS (Figure A.I.1 in Annex I). According to ICES guidelines for BITS surveys, one control haul (at station No 48) was only initiated with hydrological measurements and abandoned due to oxygen deficit in the near bottom layer (0.95 ml/l, which was well below the required minimum of 1.5 ml/l).

Trawling was done with the standard bottom trawl type TV-3#930, with 10-mm mesh bar length in the codend. Control hauls were conducted at the daylight, at 3.0 knots vessel speed for 30 minutes each, except for nine hauls for which the towing was shortened to 15 minutes, mostly because of unfavourable bottom conditions (rocky bottom or changeable bottom depth). The catch per unit effort (CPUE) of particular species was recalculated per ½ hour of trawling and per ICES Subdivision. 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 – 8223,
- herring – 5289,
- sprat – 4293,
- flounder (separated by sex) – 3898,
- plaice (separated by sex) – 383,
- turbot – 12,

In total, for 22321 individual fish of all species present in the control catches length and weight were recorded.

During the length measurements fish were visually inspected for determination the symptoms of different pathological changes, visible on the skin surface and in the vertebral column. In total, 411 cod, 564 herring, 510 sprat, 299 flounder, 151 plaice and 12 turbot individuals were taken to the standard biological analyses, including ageing. Biological analyses of fish were made in accordance to the standard methodological procedures recommended by the ICES-WGBIFS, 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, 49 planned fish catch-stations starting positions and 26 standard hydrographic stations at the main hydrological research profile of the southern Baltic 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. Meteorological observations of air temperature, wind speed and direction and atmospheric pressure were performed at actual geographical position of each research station, with applied automated station type MILOS-500.

• **BITS-4Q/2013 survey**: overall, 12 working days at sea were used to fulfil the survey goals (as originally planned). Overall, 30 catch-stations were accomplished, including 16 and 14 control hauls in the ICES SDs 25 and 26 respectively (Figure A.I.2 in Annex I), as compared to originally planned 33 randomly preselected control-hauls (17 and 16 in SDs 25 and 26 respectively). Within 14 control hauls executed in SD 26, three of them were performed at different location than originally selected for the same reasons that three out of 33 planned control hauls could not be performed, i.e.: either the Navy war-ships military trainings in coastal waters and at open sea or high density of the set gillnets and drift lines in the survey area or unfavorable weather conditions (very strong wind from north-east direction and high waves on 25 and 26.11.2013). There were no oxygen depletion (azonic zone) registered in the near bottom waters of the research area.

Trawling was done with the standard bottom trawl type TV-3#930, with 10-mm mesh bar length in the codend. Control hauls were conducted at the daylight, at 3.0 knots vessel speed for 30 minutes each, except for seven hauls for which the towing was shortened to 10-20 minutes because of high concentration of fish or unfavorable bottom conditions (rocky bottom or very changeable bottom depth).

The catch per unit effort (CPUE) of each species was calculated per ½ hour. The catch from each control haul was sorted out, fishes were weighed and the samples or sub-samples were taken to determine the length distribution, age-length-mass relationships, sex, stage of gonads development, feeding conditions. In the case of plaice and turbot and in the most hauls regarding cod and flounder, every specimen caught was taken to the total length and mass measurements. In the case of clupeids, the subsamples were taken. 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 on the main commercial species were taken for the length and mass determination:

- cod – 5070,
- herring – 3868,
- sprat – 3628,
- flounder – 1723.

Overall, 15075 individual fish, representing 16 species, were taken for the length and mass determination, including 786 specimens from the non-commercial by-catch fraction. All fish taken for the length measurements were also visually inspected for determination of externally symptoms of diseases, visible on the skin surface and in the vertebral column (various pathological changes).

Overall, 1885 individual fish, including 399 cod, 331 sprat, 582 herring, 449 flounder, 113 plaice and 8 turbot individuals were taken to the standard biological analyses performed accordingly to the

ICES-WGBIFS standard methodological procedures, directly on board of surveying vessel. Materials collected during fish length measurements were used for an evaluation of the juvenile, undersized specimens' numerical share in samples.

Every control-haul was preceded by the basic hydrological parameters (the seawater temperature, salinity, oxygen content) measurements, made continuously from the sea-surface to the bottom. The hydrological data were aggregated and archived per each 1-m depth interval. Overall, 49 measurements at hydrological stations were made in the survey area, including 30 stations at the starting position of control hauls and 19 additional standard hydrographic stations determined along the research profile of the southern Baltic. The Neil-Brown CTD-probe combined with the rosette sampler (the bathometer rosette) was applied for this investigation. Oxygen content was determined by the standard Winkler's method. Meteorological observations of air temperature, wind speed and direction and atmospheric pressure were performed at actual geographical position of each research station, with applied automated station type MILOS-500.

• **BIAS/2012 survey:** in total, 18 working days were used to fulfil the survey goals (and 18 days were planned), and all 34 planned fish catch-stations with the use of herring small-meshed pelagic trawl type WP 53/64x4 with 6 mm mesh bar length in the codend were performed, out of which 15, 17 and 2 control hauls were done in ICES SDs 26, 25 and 24 respectively (Figure A.I.3 in Annex I). Depth to the bottom at trawling positions varied from 33 to 105 m. The trawl mouth vertical opening ranged from 15 to 20 m. Standard towing time was 30 minutes. In case of two control hauls (Nos 7 and 15) the towing time was shortened to 15 minutes due to high concentration of fish detected acoustically or to substantial variation in the bottom depth.

Fishes caught in each control-haul were sorted by species and weighed. In total, 11, 33 and 5 samples for sprat, herring and cod respectively, were taken for length/mass measurements and length-mass-age structure analyses. 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 cod and the by-catch were determined. Overall, length and mass was measured for 2447 sprat, 6323 herring, and 705 cod, out of which 428 individuals of sprat, 1367 of herring and 231 of cod were biologically analysed (age, sex, maturity, stomach fullness). Detailed ichthyological analyses were made on board the research vessel in accordance to the ICES-WGBIFS standard procedures. During the length measurements fish were visually inspected for determination the symptoms of different pathological changes, visible on the skin surface and in the vertebral column. The numerical share of juvenile, undersized (below minimum landing/conservation size) sprat, herring and cod in samples was determined.

The acoustic system calibration was performed on 19.09.2013 in the Gulf of Gdansk, at the geographical position: $\varphi = 54^{\circ}28.8'N$, $\lambda = 019^{\circ}20.9'E$. The SIMRAD EK-60, split-beam scientific echosounder, linked with the transducers type ES38-B and ES120-7C, with the transceivers working at frequencies of 38 and 120 kHz was used. The new applied values of acoustic parameter S_v (transducer gain) for the transducers type ES38-B and ES120-7C were 23.93 dB (SA correction = -0.50 dB) and 26.09 dB (SA correction = -0.30 dB) respectively. For comparison, calibration results (S_v) from previous year (13.09.2012) were 24.22 and 26.72 dB respectively.

One of the principal survey task was to collect echo-integration records (SA = NASCs; Nautical Area Scattering (Strength) Coefficient) along the pre-selected acoustic transects on the distance of about

830 NM. Because of historical comparability of data, pre-selected echo-integration transects were planned in a similar pattern as was in the previous years, however taking into account experiences from the autumn 2009-2012 BIAS surveys, acoustic transects realised in the autumn 2013 were slightly reshaped comparing with the previous years' surveys. A shallow southern parts of the Polish waters were excluded from the investigations. The distance covered in Sep.-Oct. 2013 with echosounding was 1091 NM (ESDU - Elementary Standard Distance Unit) (Figure A.I.3 in Annex I), and in the final calculation of fishes stocks biomass the above-mentioned value of ESDU was accepted as fully valid and the area of 13014 NM² were covered with echosounding. The values of the SA parameter for each ESDU were the input data for fish stocks biomass estimation. The echo-integration data, which originated mostly from the layers of 10-m depth interval, were collected in a daytime. Because of a vessel hull reverberations and aeration zone, an echo-integration started at 10-m depth from a sea surface. The mean target strength (TS) – one of the principal acoustic parameter – was calculated according to following formulas:

- clupeids $TS = 20 \log L - 71.2$ (Anon. 1983),
- gadoids $TS = 20 \log L - 67.5$ (Foote et al. 1986).

The total number of fish in each the ICES rectangle was estimated as a product of the mean NASCs from scrutinized acoustic data and a rectangle area, divided by corresponded the mean acoustic cross-section. Clupeids abundance was separated into sprat and herring according to the mean share in control-catches in given the ICES rectangle.

The seawater temperature, salinity and oxygen content were measured continuously from the sea surface to a bottom, directly after each of 34 control hauls. The hydrological parameters were measured also at 18 standard hydrographical stations located within the Polish marine waters. Totally, 52 hydrological stations were inspected with the Neil-Brown CTD-probe combined with the rosette sampler (the bathometer rosette). One additional hydrological station was realized at the place selected for the echosounder calibration, i.e. northward from Krynica Morska. Oxygen content was determined by the standard Winkler's method. The basic meteorological parameters, i.e. air temperature and pressure, wind direction and force, state of sea were registered at the each catch-station location with the use of automated station type MILOS-500.

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

The only deviations from the NP were reduced number of control hauls during BITS-4Q survey (by three) for reasons explained in section III G 1.

The BITS and BIAS surveys data collected by the NMFRI in 2013 are stored in a local fish samples database and were regularly submitted to the internationally co-ordinated databases (TowDatabase, BIAS_DB, BAD-1, ROSCOP, DATRAS). 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.

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 requiring actions.

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

IV A Collection of data concerning the aquaculture

In 2012 the total volume of aquaculture production for human consumption was 32.3 thousand tons. Of this, there were 17.7 thousand tons of carp, 10.9 thousand tons of trout, and 3.7thousand 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 2008 hours in 2012 year.

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 2012, 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 2080 hours in 2012 year.

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

The target population was 193 fish processing plants of 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 85% 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 2013 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

No action required.

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.

Minor difficulties were experienced with up-loading data to FishFrame in 2013 due to problems i.a. with data format conversion, but those problems were solved in due time.

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.

VII Follow-up of STECF recommendations

There were no relevant recommendations from STECF in 2013. The table below presents most recent recommendations from STECF with corresponding actions taken.

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.	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

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
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

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XI Annexes

Annex I. The r/v “Baltica” research surveys charts

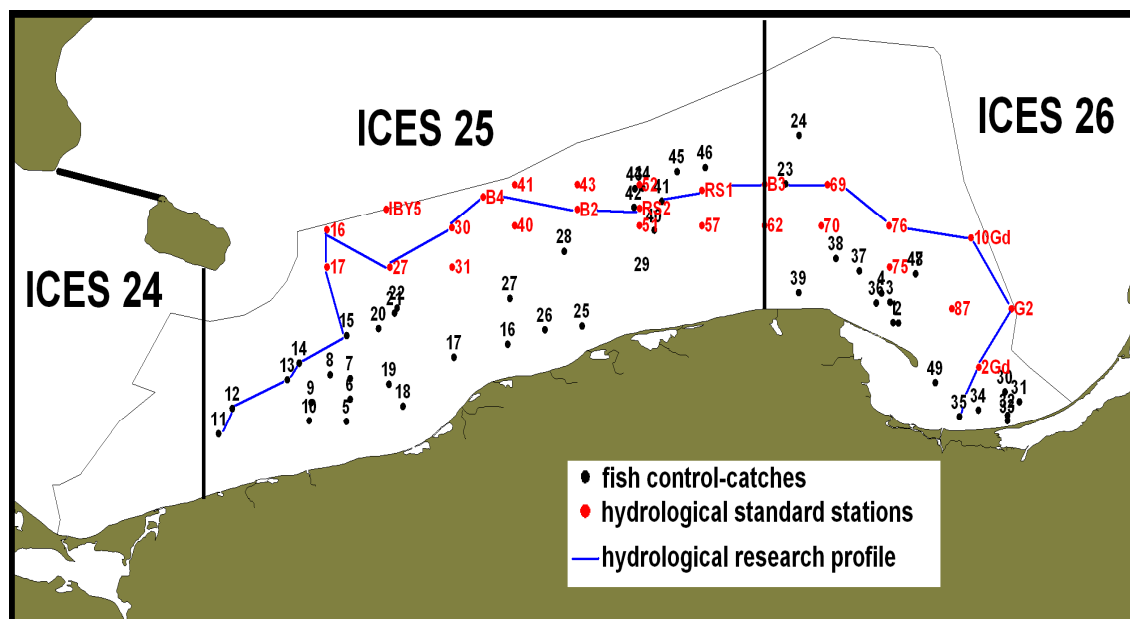


Figure A.I.1. Location of the bottom trawl hauls and standard hydrological stations monitored in the Polish EEZ by the r.v. “Baltica” during BITS-1Q/2013 survey in the Polish EEZ (grey line).

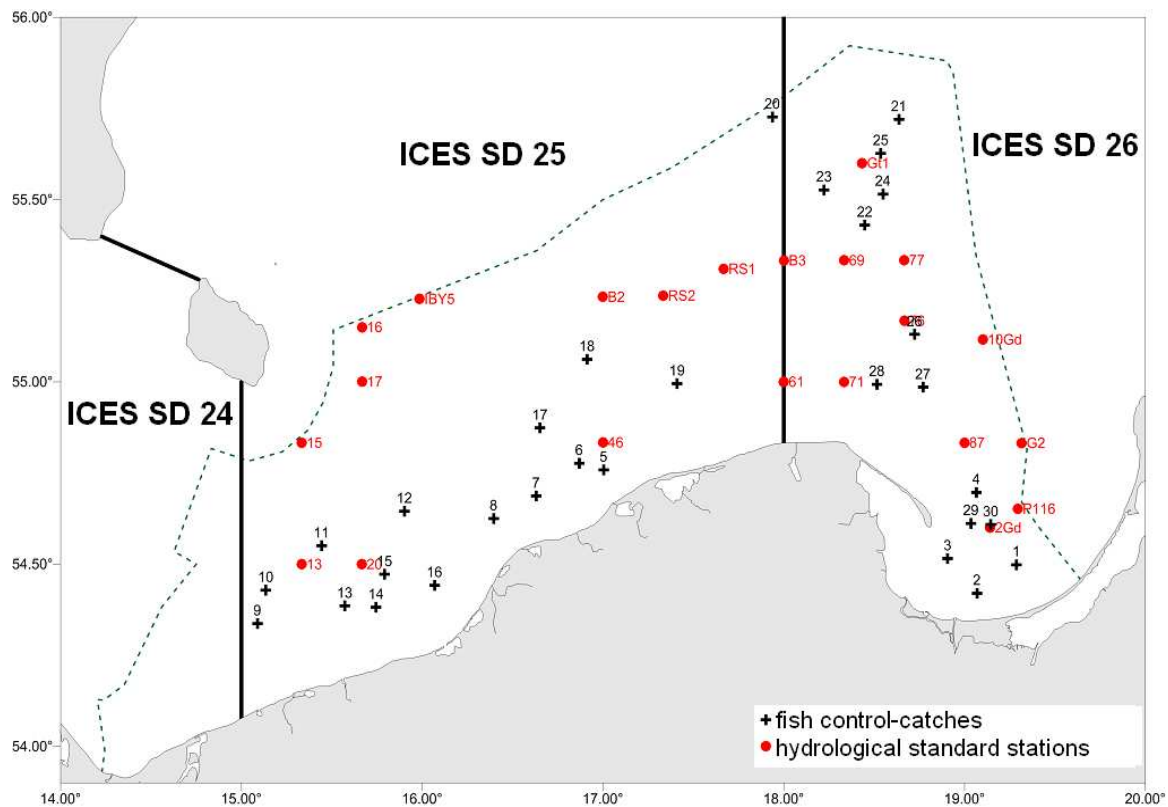


Figure A.I.2. Location of the bottom trawl hauls (Nos. 1-30) and standard hydrological stations inspected by the r.v. "Baltica" during the BITS-4Q/2013 survey in the Polish EEZ (green dashed line).

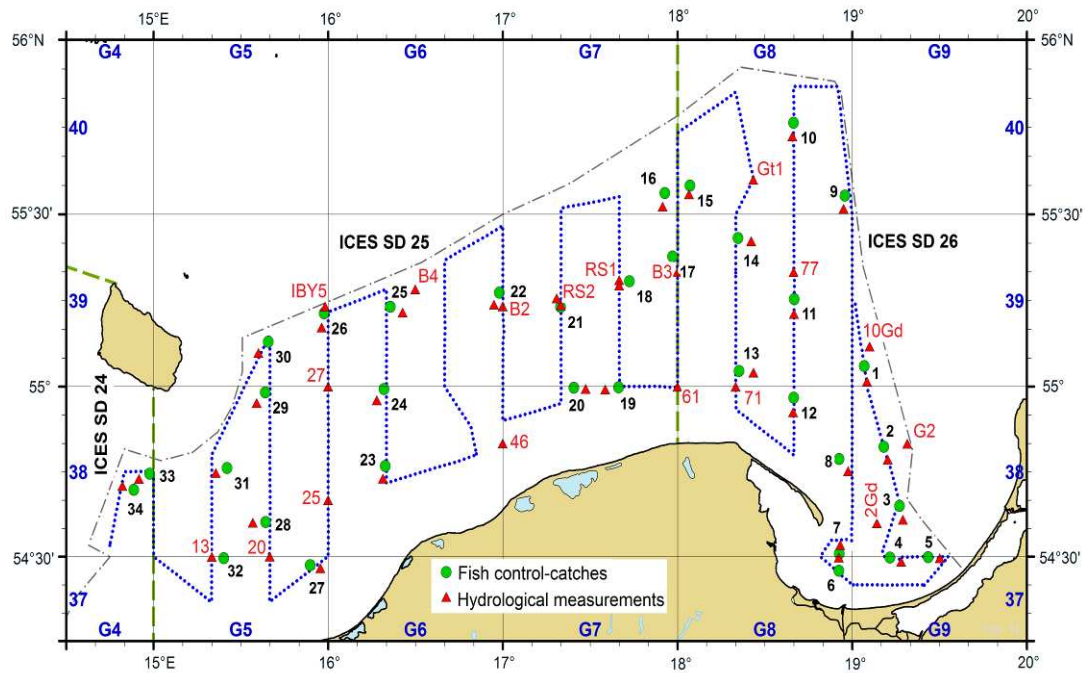


Figure A.I.3. Location of the fish pelagic control hauls and standard hydrological stations inspected during the BIAS 2013 survey by the r.v. "Baltica", along the acoustic transects (blue dotted line) positioned in the in the Polish EEZ (grey dashed/dotted line); green dashed line – the ICES sub-division borders.

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 established 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:

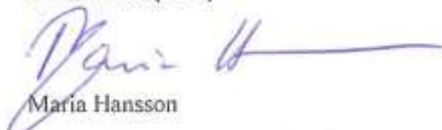
Sweden is responsible for submitting the data from Swedish vessels, and Poland in the case of sampling Polish vessels, to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of Data Collection Framework. Both Member States will provide the required data for the species that are requested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

Contact persons:

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In Poland (NMFRI): Irek 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. Bilateral Agreement with Denmark

Bilateral Agreement between Danish Technical University - National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DTU-Aqua) Denmark and National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) 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 established between Poland and Denmark due to landings of sprat by Polish flagged vessels take place in Denmark 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 Denmark, 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:

Denmark is responsible for submitting the data from Danish 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 Denmark (DTU-Aqua): Marie Storr-Paulsen: msp@aqua.dtu.dk

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

Signatures:

For Denmark (DTU-Aqua)



Jørgen Dalskov
National Correspondent, Denmark

For Poland (NMFRI)



Zbigniew Karnicki
National Correspondent, Poland

Date: 24 June 2013

Annex IV. 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 195/2008 and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU.

Having regard to 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:

Partner State	Institute	Contact Person
Germany	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (vTI)	C. Strassky
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)	J. A. van Beek
Poland	Sea Fisheries Institute	T. 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 € 64,758,- 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	9,867
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.

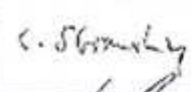

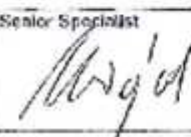
Access to vessels

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 CEEAF 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: 23/06/2014 
The Netherlands	Dirkjan van der Stelt	National Correspondent	Date: 23/06/14 
Latvia	<NAAM>	<FUNCTION>	Date: _____
Lithuania	<NAAM>	<FUNCTION>	Date: _____
Poland	Jeanusz Wojcik	Senior Specialist	Date: 23/06/14 

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. <i>G. Kornilovs</i>
Lithuania			Date: _____
Poland	Ireneusz Wojcik	Senior Specialist	Date: _____

Contributor	Share catches (2008-2010)	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
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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	Grzegorz Wojcik	Senior Specialist	Date: 2011-06-23

Annex V. Amendment to Multilateral agreement in CECAF area**AMENDMENT TO:****Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters**

The Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters, as signed by all countries named in June 2011 (See annex) is amended as follows from 1st January 2014 onwards:

Term:

The multi-lateral agreement is extended beyond its initial end date of 31 December 2013. The new end date is 31 December 2015.

Costs:

The cost share for each country of the total costs follows a key based on the share in average landings in 2008-2012. This results in the following share by country and the 50% co-financing by the Commission.

Total Landings 2008-2012 (RCM LDF Data) and cost shares by partners

Partner	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	average 2008- 2012	Landings share	Cost share	
Netherlands	83,630	68,019	92,980	55,044	34,926	66,920	22.95%	€	7,432
Germany	0	0	20,650	37,088	14,582	14,464	4.96%	€	1,606
Poland	17,709	46,287	14,605	60,177	29,178	33,591	11.52%	€	3,731
Lithuania	120,100	124,480	116,040	121,000	44,133	105,151	36.06%	€	11,678
Latvia	68,410	81,283	87,237	89,667	30,723	71,464	24.51%	€	7,937
TOTAL	289,849	320,069	331,512	362,976	153,542	291,590	100.00%	€	32,384
EU-cofinancing (50%, through The Netherlands)								€	32,384
Total								€	64,768

Co-financing is commissioned through the Dutch EU-cofinancing for Data Collection. Should the co-financing percentage change, the contribution by the partners will be matched accordingly (either increased or decreased).

Signatures for agreement

Member State	Name	Function	Signature
Germany	Christoph Stransky	National Correspondent	Date: _____
The Netherlands	Sieto Verver	Head Centre for Fisheries Research	Date: _____
Latvia	Georgs Kornilovs	National Correspondent	Date: _____
Lithuania	Vytautas Grušauskas	Director	Date: _____
Poland	Ireneusz Wójcik	Head of Department of Logistics & Monitoring	 Date: 10.12.13

Annex VI. Bilateral Agreement with Finland

Bilateral Agreement between the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute and National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (Poland) for the collection and genetic analysis of salmon catch 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 2010/74/EU2008/949/EC

Agreement:

Salmon fishing vessels, which operate in the Baltic Sea Main Basin and land for first sale into Poland, will be sampled as part of the Polish National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008). The eventual additional sampling costs will be covered within the Polish National Sampling Programme for 2014 - 2016.

Based on this agreement, the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) will deliver the collected salmon samples (part of the scales of each sample and associated data) to the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (FGFRI) for genetic analysis. The genetic analysis will be carried out as part of the Finnish National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008). The costs of genetic analysis will be covered within the Finnish National Sampling Programme for 2014 - 2016.

Description of sampling:

The sampling of landings will be carried out in accordance with the Polish National Sampling Programme.

Sampling Intensity:

Levels and coverage as agreed at the annual meeting of RCM Baltic based on actual possibilities.

Data responsibility:

The FGFRI will deliver the results of genetic analysis to the NMFRI, as well as to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework.

The NMFRI reserves rights to include their staff in all publications made with use of data collected within that agreement.

Contact persons: In FGFRI, Tapani Pakarinen
In NMFRI, Wojciech Pelczarski

Signatures:

Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute

National Marine Fisheries
Research Institute

Riitta-Rahkonen, Research Director
ON BEHALF OF

Iwona Psuty, Deputy Director
(Research)

Date: 4.9.2013
[Signature]
Wojciech Pelczarski

Date: 13.08.2013
[Signature]

Annex VII. Bilateral Agreement with Germany

Bilateral Agreement between Poland (NMFRI) and Germany (TI) for the collection of biological data 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.

Agreement:

Biological sampling of yellow and silver eels from commercial fisheries in the Oder River Basin District will be covered within the Polish National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (Reg. 199/2008). Sampling costs will be included within the Polish National Programme.

Description of sampling:

Both Polish and German fisheries target eel in the Oder River Basin District and are using the same practices. Sampling for primary biological data will be covered in accordance with the Polish National Programme.

Sampling intensity:

The target sample sizes are 100 yellow and 100 silver eel from commercial fisheries in the Oder River Basin District. However, sample size might be adjusted to a lower level depending on the availability of eel from Polish commercial fisheries.

Data responsibility:

Poland will be responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. Poland will provide the data for European eel, relevant for the Data Collection Framework, to Germany as and when requested.

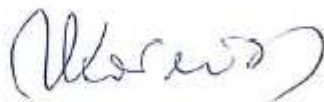
Contact Persons

Poland: Tomasz Nermer; nermer@mir.gdynia.pl

Germany: Jan-Dag Pohlmann; jan.pohlmann@ti.bund.de

Signatures:

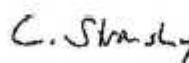
Poland



Dr. Zbigniew Karnicki

Polish National Correspondent

Germany



Dr. Christoph Stransky

German National Correspondent

Date: 07 May 2013