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## **Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters 2018-2020**

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Following EU regulation 1004/2017 and EU Implementing Decision 1251/2016, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland hold the obligation to collect representative biological data from the fisheries for small pelagics by freezer trawlers in the CECAF area.

Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland agree to co-operate in the biological data collection of these pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters in 2018, 2019 and 2020. This agreement is in accordance with EC Regulation 1004/2017, stipulating that "*Member States shall coordinate their data collection activities with other Member States in the same marine region*" (article 9).

Having regard the above mentioned Regulation and the project manual "Manual for scientific observers on board EU pelagic trawlers in CECAF area" as discussed and agreed upon by the Regional Coordination Group for Long Distance Fisheries in November 2017, the following details apply to this agreement:

### *Partners*

The following institutes are considered as partner within this agreement:

Member State	Institute	Contact person
Germany	Thünen Institute (TI)	C. Stransky
Latvia	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR)	A. Berzins
Lithuania	Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	I. Sidlauskiene
The Netherlands	Centre for Fisheries Research (CVO)	S.W. Verver
Poland	National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI)	I. Wójcik

### *Coordination*

Poland will coordinate the execution of data collection under this multi-lateral agreement.

### *Sampling protocol*

Biological sampling is carried out on board EU pelagic trawlers fishing in CECAF area by Poland. The observers are instructed by Poland and follow the sampling protocol as described in "Manual for scientific observers on board EU pelagic trawlers in CECAF area".

### *Data responsibility*

Poland is responsible for data-entry and storage of the sampling data. The Netherlands is responsible for data validation, data processing and data delivery to the relevant end-users. Poland and The Netherlands will collaborate to achieve timely delivery while ensuring to meet the required quality standards.

### *Relevant end-users*

The following end-users are considered relevant in the context of this agreement: The European Commission (joint scientific committees of SFPAs) and CECAF (CECAF working

group on small pelagics, Scientific subcommittee). Other end-users will be taken into consideration on a case by case basis.

#### *Costs*

The total costs for the sampling programme (incl coordination) by Poland amount € 117,700.= (ex. VAT) per year. These cost are shared between the partners following a distribution key. Cost shares are maximum amounts, in case of lower costs, deductions might apply in line with the relative shares. The relative cost shares are fixed for the duration of this agreement. The cost shares are based on average landings by EU member states from the fisheries for small pelagics by pelagic trawlers in the CECAF area for 2014-2016 (as reported to RCG LDF 2017).

Partner	Share catches (%)	Maximum amount (€/year)
Germany	9.0	10,593
Latvia	22.7	26,718
Lithuania	38.7	45,550
Poland	10.4	12,241
The Netherlands	19.2	22,598
Total		117,700

In principle, Poland sends each partner an invoice per year, to which standard financial conditions apply. Upon request, a different invoicing regime may apply, e.g. by sending quarterly invoices.

#### *Access to vessels*

On top of the stipulation in Council Regulation 1004/2017 (Section 3, Article 12), each Partner strives to ensure access to its fleet for 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, 2018. With exception of financial obligations, this agreement ends on December 31, 2020. 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: 1/12/2017 C. Stransky
Latvia	Aivars Berzins	Director, Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment BIOR	Date: 1/12/2017 
Lithuania	Indre Sidlauskiene	Director, Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	Date:  Zusammenschluss der Mitgliedstaaten prie 12 ZUN direktorius valdymo Petrus
Poland	Ireneusz Wójcik	Head of Department (NMFRI), DCF Coordinator	Date: 1/12/2017 
The Netherlands	Sieto Verver	Head Centre for Fisheries Research	Date: 1/12/2017 