

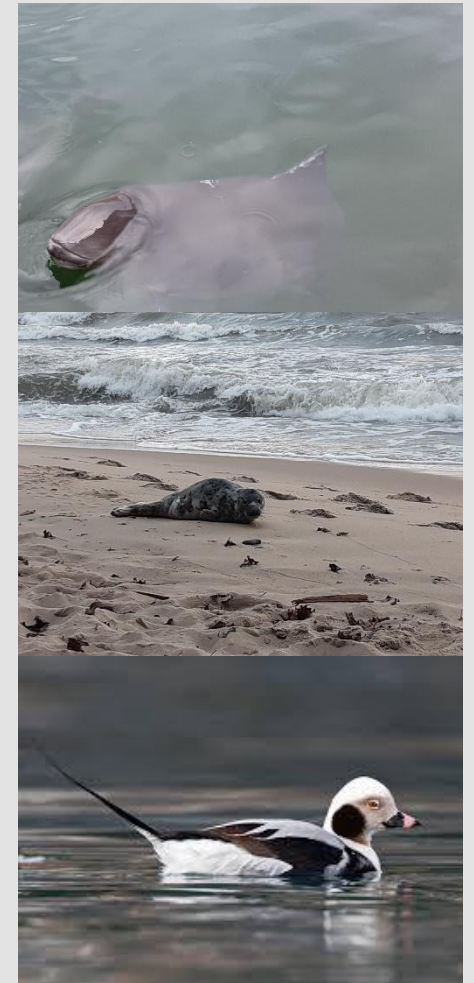


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HELCOM's Roadmap on fisheries data in the Baltic Sea

Marine Mammal And Bird Bycatch in the Baltic Sea
Turning Knowledge Into Action

Hel, 13-14 November 2025



Contents



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Helsinki Commission
Helsinki, Finland, 4-5 March 2020

HELCOM 41-2020

Document title	Draft Roadmap on fisheries data
Code	5-1
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	5 – Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
Submission date	10.2.2020
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	HOD 57-2019 paragraph 4.73-4.74

Background

The HELCOM Expert Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of assessment of the marine environment (EG Fishdata) has developed a draft Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea.

HOD 57-2019 approved the draft Roadmap, as set out in document 4-18-Rev.1 and agreed to submit it to HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption. HOD 57-2019 further agreed that initial follow up on the implementation of the Roadmap should be reported to HOD 59-2020.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea, as set out in the Annex.

- **Setting the scene** within HELCOM
- **Driving forces** behind the Roadmap preparation
- **Meeting data needs** with currently available fisheries data
- **Addressing remaining demands** for improved data and data quality – way forward
- **Follow-up and Communication**



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Major driving forces behind the Roadmap preparation EU Legislation

- European Commission decision (**COM decision 2017/848 as of 17 May 2017**) by-catch with **criterion D1C1** is one of five criteria to describe and assess the status of birds, mammals or non-commercially exploited fish. Bycatch thresholds should be set.
- European Commission adopted **Data Collection Multiannual Plan DC-MAP for years 2017-2019** dated 12 July 2016 (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251) which includes requirements to monitor bycatch of protected species of marine mammals, birds and fish species.
- The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), **obliges EU members to monitor by-catch of protected species (Art. 12).**
- **and a few others...**



 HELCOM INDICATORS

Major driving forces behind the Roadmap preparation
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Core Indicator
Report „Number of drowned mammals and water birds in fishing gear“

AIMS OF THE INDICATOR:

- to estimate the mortality of mammals and birds due to fisheries bycatch, the indicator is to deliver a bycatch rate.
- to assess whether the mortality of marine mammals and seabirds due to bycatch in fishery is at a level threatening the population status (bycatch thresholds).
- to facilitate decisions if further management actions in fisheries are required to protect marine mammals and seabirds against bycatch.

WITHOUT DATA ON BYCATCH THE AIMS OF THIS HELCOM CORE INDICATOR CANNOT BE FULFILLED

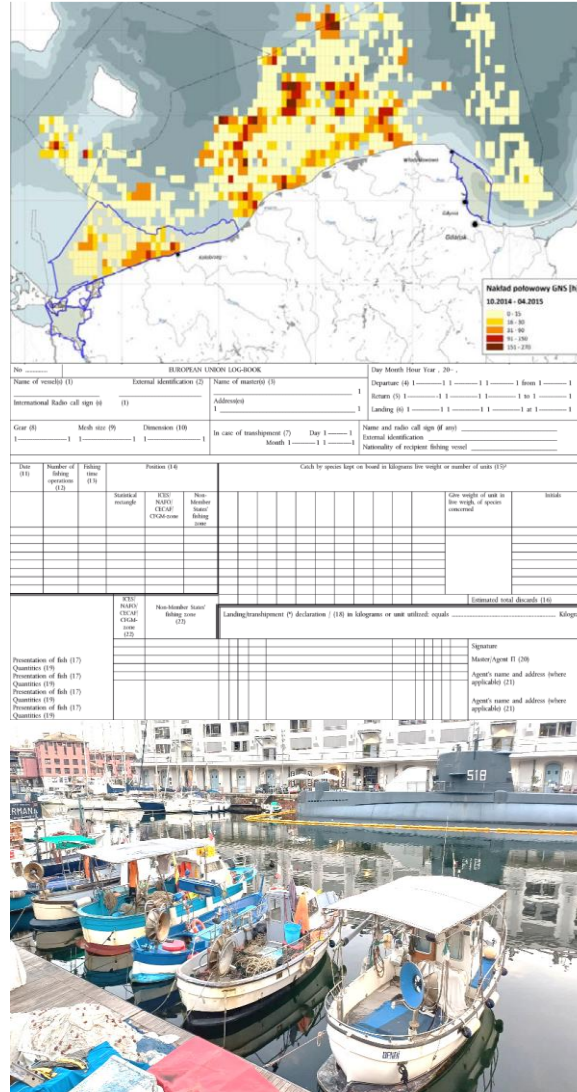


Data necessary to assess bycatch of ETP species

- Data on **bycatch of ETP species related to monitored effort**
- Regional, **temporal and spatial overview of fishing effort** for specific métiers, especially but not limited to gillnetters (especially static nets)
- Data on the **distribution and population size** of the relevant species (**not dealt with within the context of the Roadmap as not fisheries data**)



Possible sources of data



Polish fishing effort data (GNS) MIR-PIB from VMS/logbook,

Logbook template EU Reg 404/2011

Marine Mammal And Bird Bycatch

- **Logbooks** recordings, sales notes, monthly journals, coastal logbooks, etc.
- **VMS, AIS,** or other sources of GPS data (Black box11, etc.), soon it should be available on all vessels (new Control Regulation 2023/2842).
- **Vessel register data** (in some cases for assuming gear use).
- **Monitoring under EU Regulation 2019/1241** (previously under 812/2004).
- **Monitoring under Data Collection Framework** and pilot programs (scientific monitoring).



Identified bycatch data gaps

- **Bycatch data at species level**, especially for smaller vessels (below 15 m);
- **Representative (?)** bycatch monitoring data for fyke nets (FYK) trammel nets (GTR), and set gillnets (GNS), longlines (LLS), pots and traps (FPO);
- **Effort metric** (like days at sea, fishing hours) not harmonised across different gear types and between fleet segments (i.e. vessel sizes);
- **Spatial heterogeneity**, mesh size or other gear characteristics, in particular for static gears, as well as soak time and net length needed for precise assessment of fishing effort;
- **Precise recording rate** of fishing positioning systems (VMS, AIS or others). Small vessels (below 12 m) currently only reported effort at the resolution of Baltic Squares.



PRA 4407838 REGION DE BORDERS COMMUNAUTES LANGUAGES Date: 12/05/2024
 Nom de l'opérateur (C) [REDACTED] (E)pan (E) 162 (O)S 16.22 de L.MORISSE/ELZ
 N° de l'opérateur (C) 029332 [REDACTED] (E)pan (E) 120 (O)S 12.22 de L.MORISSE/ELZ
 FMCV [REDACTED] (E)pan (E) 120 (O)S 12.22 de L.MORISSE/ELZ
 ALB [REDACTED] (E)pan (E) 120 (O)S 12.22 de L.MORISSE/ELZ

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 Etat de transbordement (T) [REDACTED] Jour [REDACTED] Mois [REDACTED]
 Numéro d'identification externe [REDACTED]
 Nationalité du navire [REDACTED]

Date (T)	Nombre d'opérateurs de pêche (T)	Position (O)	Zone de pêche (O)	Captures par espèces retenues à [REDACTED] en kg poids vif / nombre de occupants (E)						Indiquer le poids vif de l'animal utilisé en kg (E)	Pays (E)
				SAF	BAE	CFD	CND	CAF	RIB		
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15/05/2024	2	45° 50' N 10° 05' W	UTC								
16/05/2024	2	45° 50' N 10° 05' W	UTC								

Déclaration de débarquement / Transbordement (O) en kg ou unité utilisée (E) soit: [REDACTED] kg
 Signature: [REDACTED]
 Fonction: [REDACTED]



Way forward improved fishing effort reporting in logbooks

- Increase precision of monitoring fishing effort e.g. by changes in reporting intervals;
- Expand the obligation to keep an electronic logbook which would contain the most needed information for all vessels independent of their size- **new Control Regulation (EU) 2023/2842**
- Cover a certain % of métier and area under the DCF monitoring or other monitoring program



Way forward bycatch data

- **Initiate dedicated research projects to collect data on bycatch** in relevant fishing métiers coordinated between Contracting Parties
- **Initiate research projects** dedicated for identifying hot-spot bycatch areas
- **Improve recording of bycatch of marine mammals and birds by making it easier for fishermen to self-report** (electronic logbooks, incentives);
- **Enhance bycatch monitoring with onboard observers or -more cost-effective -with Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM)** (incentives and enforcement mechanism for non-compliance is needed);
- **Use of a reference fleet** to make calculations of numbers for total bycatch;
- **Identify and utilise possible national and international funds** for bycatch data collection.



Way forward increase precision of tracking

spatio-temporal
fishing effort data

- **Spatio-temporal fishing effort data should be improved** - electronic logbooks and tracking devices obligatory on all vessels, **regardless of vessel size** - the new EU Control regulation ((EU) 2023/2842) .

Derogations for collection of such data are until 2028 and for vessels under 9 m, can be even 2029



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Pew Charitable Trusts

