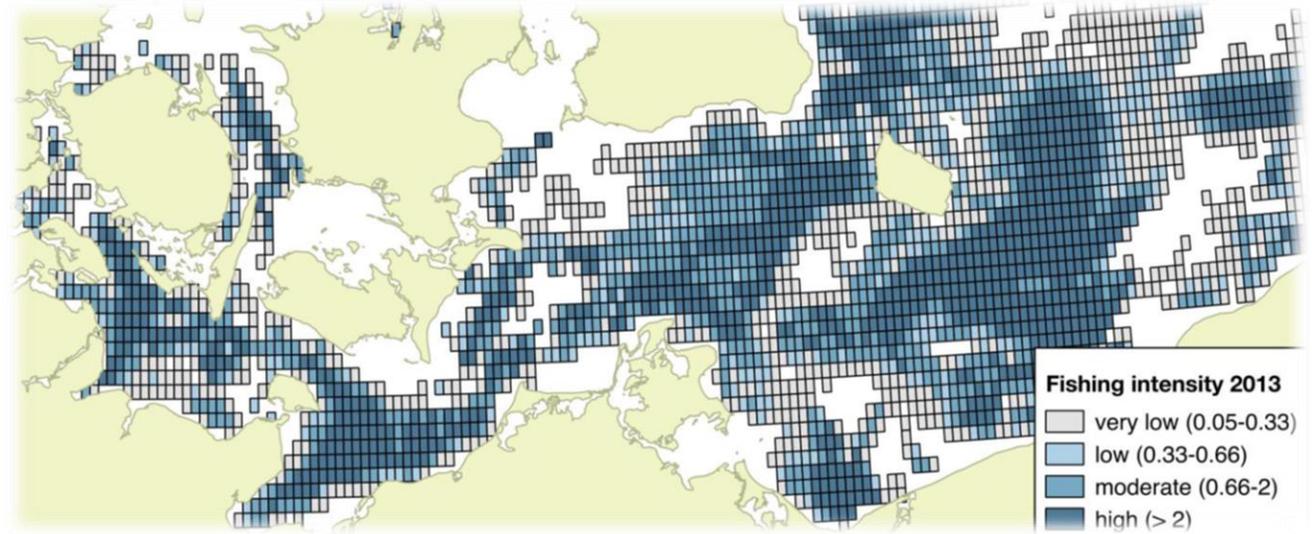


HELCOM fisheries data needs for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members

**INDICATOR:
Number of
drowned
mammals and
waterbirds in
fishing gear**



**INDICATOR:
Cumulative impact on
benthic biotopes
(including fisheries)**



Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear

Key Message

*This pre-core indicator and its threshold values are yet to be commonly agreed in HELCOM.
The indicator is included as a test indicator for the purposes of the mid-2017 'State of the Baltic Sea' report,
and the results are to be considered as intermediate.*

This core indicator provides a descriptive evaluation of whether the number of incidentally by-caught marine mammals and waterbirds are below mortality levels that enable reaching good status. Currently no quantitative threshold values have been defined for the core indicator. Only concepts for determining the threshold values based on removal- and conservation targets have been described and are proposed to form the basis of future core indicator threshold setting activities.

Initial assessment values (i.e. initial threshold value) have been used to develop a first descriptive indicator evaluation. The removal targets are used as tentative threshold values for two populations of harbour porpoises and three species of waterbirds (Key message table 1). Available incidental by-catch estimates (e.g. ICES 2015, 2016a) are evaluated against these threshold values, which also account for other sources of anthropogenic mortality than incidental by-catch to the concerned species. The threshold values have to be refined and further species added as further knowledge is gained. The initial descriptive evaluation shows that the incidental by-catch over all species included so far fails to meet the threshold in all areas where an initial evaluation was possible. Key message table 1 shows in which sub-basins the species assessed occur and where by-catch is proven.

Why do we (HELCOM) need the data?

- Except for a HELCOM CORE indicator *Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in the fishing gear* which requires data in order to be operational;
- Several HELCOM commitments emphasizing the need to collect data concerning incidental catches of marine mammals and birds, including Ministerial Declarations and Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- HELCOM acts as a regional body for the implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive. (EC dec. 2010/477/EU) obliges MS to set the threshold values for mortality due to by-catch of sea mammals (Descriptor D1 C1 – bycatch)

What has been done already

- First proposal titled: ***Draft HELCOM proposal as end user, for data to be collected under DC-MAP in order to effectively assess the impact of Baltic fisheries on the marine ecosystem in the Baltic Sea***, has been prepared by PL (K.Kamińska) and German expert Sven Koschinski for the HELCOM FISH meeting 6/2017 in May as a result of the *Commission Decision of 12 July 2016 (2016/1251/EU) Adopting a multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019*. Where a set of protected species including harbour porpoises were included as an obligation to monitor in catches carried out under scientific fisheries monitoring programmes (table 1D).

Variables	Explanation	Currently available information/data sources	Identified data gap/possible sources of data which are lacking
Incidental catch number per gear for non-target species	Incidental catch of marine mammals and waterbirds (Table 1) in relevant gears. Urgently needed as core data of the indicator.	Data are lacking No reliable information available (collected on a regular basis with a targeted monitoring programme)	Possible sources of data: Data Collection Framework/Other Pilot programmes outside DCF (e.g. under Reg. 812/2004)/ information provided by fishermen in logbooks and verified by scientists
Fishing effort data	For the métier "nets": km net and soaked hours (including data from small vessels and part-time fishermen, and also an estimation from recreational fisheries using nets) - this variable is urgently needed to extrapolate incidental catch numbers per gear (see above). This variable needs to be collected more detailed than ICES statistical rectangle only.	Partly available Not all countries record km of nets and soak time but days at sea of the vessel instead. VMS data and electronic logbook only for vessels >12m, most vessels using static gear are smaller. Log book data for vessels >10m (>8m in case of quota for cod).	Lacking data: Data on fishing effort: Soak time /net length Detailed location of catches for vessels below 12 m, majority of gillnetting vessels in the Baltic Sea. Set nets poorly covered in existing data collection Possible sources of data: Data Collection Framework – pilot programmes, Logbooks (obligation to provide data on fishing effort in the logbooks - control regulation 1224/2009). For vessels below 12 m, it is necessary to collect additional (more detailed) data beyond control regulation obligations. This could be done in pilot studies. Agreements with fishermen to collect more precise effort data than in ICES rectangles are possible (spatial resolution of data on top of what is required by UE law for countries being EU Members, are country dependent).
Date and location of incidental catches	This variable needs to be collected more detailed than ICES statistical rectangle only and as detailed as possible. The incidental catch position serves to identify possible local hot spots for incidental catches to be compared to distribution of species. Such Bycatch Risk Assessment (BRA) is being followed by ICES WGBYC (ICES 2015) and could be conducted in scientific studies or pilot projects	Partly available. Current logbook data resolution is according to ICES statistical rectangle.	Better spatial resolution of incidental by-catches needed. Data Collection Framework or pilot programmes outside DCF are needed where higher spatial resolution will be required. Where there is a legal requirement to report by-catches, the data need may be communicated to fishermen by national/local authorities.
Delivery of specimen for scientific investigations	Chosen samples of incidentally caught individuals should be delivered for scientific investigations such as species, sex, age, health status, population identity in order to identify structure and spatial distribution of populations as well as health data. Some of these investigations can be conducted in scientific studies or pilot projects.	Partly available. Some specimen are delivered.	National solutions should be deployed here such as by-catch and strandings sampling schemes. Accidentally caught individuals are allowed to be delivered for scientific investigations: Art. 12 of the projected Technical Regulation
Type of gear with unwanted by-catch, mesh size	Incidental catch rates are gear specific. For an analysis it is important to collect gear data at métier level 4 (Gear code), level 5 (Target species) and level 6 (Mesh size) at least. Further variables of importance could be	Available	Annex X (logbook ref nr. 8 and 9) in EU Regulation 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common

Mammals

Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* (Western Baltic population: VU, Baltic Proper population: CR) – priority species

Baltic ringed seal *Phoca hispida botnica* (VU) – priority species

Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus* (LC) priority species for southern Baltic (Baltic Proper), not a high priority species for the northern Baltic (The Gulf of Finland, The Gulf of Bothnia).

Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina vitulina* (Kalmarsund population: VU, Southern Baltic population: LC) – priority species

European otter *Lutra lutra* (NT)

Birds

Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica* (wintering population, CR) – priority species

Red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* (wintering population, CR) – priority species

Long tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* (wintering population, EN) – priority species

Razorbill *Alca torda* (breeding population; wintering population)

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* (wintering population) – priority species

Common guillemot *Uria aalge* (breeding population; wintering population)

Black guillemot *Cephus grylle* (breeding population, NT; wintering population, VU) – priority species

Goosander *Mergus merganser* (breeding population; wintering population)

Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* (breeding population; wintering population, VU) – priority species

Smew *Mergellus albellus* (wintering population)

Common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (wintering population)

Velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* (breeding population, VU; wintering population, EN) – priority species

Common scoter *Melanitta nigra* (wintering population, EN) – priority species

Common eider *Somateria mollissima* (breeding population, VU; wintering population, EN) – priority species

Steller's eider *Polysticta stelleri* (wintering population, EN) – priority species

Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (wintering population) – priority species

Common pochard *Aythya ferina* (wintering population)

Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* (wintering population, NT) – priority species

Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (wintering population, EN)

Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (wintering population)

Great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (breeding population; wintering population)

Work on the proposal

- HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 7/2017 in May 2017 and October 2017

Expert comments and amendments provided.

- HELCOM FISH 7/2017 in November 2017

The proposal was renamed to make title more in line with a need of making two indicators (including bycatch) operational.

Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA) has been established in order to deal with this issue more effectively.

- HELCOM HOD 53/2017 in December 2017

First introduction of an issue to the HELCOM Heads of the Delegation.

Request to report regarding progress during the next meeting.

...and intersessional work in between...

Future plans

- HELCOM FISHDATA 1/2018 (Copenhagen, 27-28 of February 2018);

Stronger emphasis put on cooperation with OSPAR and ICES (in particular ICES WGBYC – bycatch database), collection of available data and identification of data needs. ASCOBANS provided a statement. Need to prepare a Roadmap concerning future steps to collect the data.

- HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 8/2018 (14-18 of May 2018);

Consultation of the proposal.

- HELCOM FISH 8/2018 (Warsaw, 22-24 of May 2018) and meeting of the CG FISHDATA;

Work on the proposal is going to be continued

- HELCOM HOD 54/2018 (14-15 of June 2018)

Participants will be updated on the progress regarding this initiative since last HELCOM HOD 53/2017 in December.

Next steps

Will depend on an outcome of the STATE&CONSERVATION 8/2018 and HELCOM FISH 8/2018 meetings as well as work of the Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA).

Definition of fisheries

Commercial, recreational, part-time

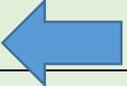
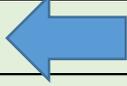


INITIATION:

12 ASCOBANS Jastarnia group meeting (Hel, Poland, 12-14 of April 2016).

Aims:

- Clear distinction between different kinds of fisheries (differences, similarities);
- Analysis of possible impact of different kinds of fisheries on harbour porpoises (also possible application of mitigation measures);
- Analysis of control/reporting obligations.

	Country	Professional fishing in the Baltic Sea	Part-time fishing in the Baltic Sea	Recreational fishing in the Baltic Sea	Fisheries in the North Sea	Comments
General definition of a fishery type		Fishery done for commercial reasons by a professional fishermen using professional equipment and gears, utilising national quotas for different fish species. Catch is sold on a market.		Fishery done by a private persons for their own needs, using very limited types of fishing methods and gears. Catch cannot be sold on a market.		
National legal acts that regulate these activities	PL	Legal act on marine fisheries (Journal of Laws 2015.222),	no part time fishing in Poland	Legal act on marine fisheries (Journal of Laws 2015.222)	no fisheries in the North Sea	
By-catch mitigation measures applied/required	PL 	pingers are required under Regulation 812/2004 for a vessles above 12 m fishing in the ICES 24 subdivision.		No by-catch mitigation measures applied/required		
size and number of a vessels in each size segment	PL	more than 200 vessels below 8 m, more than 300 above 8 m and below 12m around 50 vessels for the size 12 to 15 m, around 140 vessels above 15 m		organised angling trips on a vessels of different size and types		
fishing gears used/allowed to be used	PL	whole range		only angling, very rarely spearing		
active gears	PL	pelagic trawls, bottom trawls,				
passive gears	PL	gill nets, traps (like pots, fykenets), longlines				
Fisheries reporting obligatory/non obligatory	PL 	reporting is obligatory		reporting obligation limited		
logbooks	PL	obligatory for the vessels above 10 m and for the vessels below 10 m and above 8 m that have quota for cod		no obligation		
VMS positions	PL	for the vessels of 12 m or above		no obligation		
other types of reporting	PL	mounthly reports for the vessels below 10 m (if no quota for cod) and for all vessels below 8 m		reporting of fish caught (for collective angling trips and sport games only), limit (cod)14 indiv/ per person/for 24 hours, for salmon 2indiv/24hours (reporting only for species under multiannual management plan)		
Fisheries data available/ non available	PL 	available		limited data availability		
fishing effort (eg. days at sea, soak time)	PL	days at sea available, but not all fishing effort parameters fully available for all fleet segments		limited data availability		
fishing gears used and mesh size	PL	available		only angling and spearing is allowed		
targeted species kept on board	PL	generally available		limited data availability		
by caught species/discards	PL	obligatory for discards above 50 kg/ rather non available for other species		no by-caught species		
registration of a vessel obligatory/non obligatory	PL	obligatory		non-obligatory		
caught fish can be sell on a market yes/no	PL	yes		no		

Thank you

