

***National Data Collection Programme under
Council Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008,
Commission Regulation (EC) N° 655/2008 and
Commission Decision N° 2008/949/EC***

Technical Report 2009

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**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute**

FINLAND

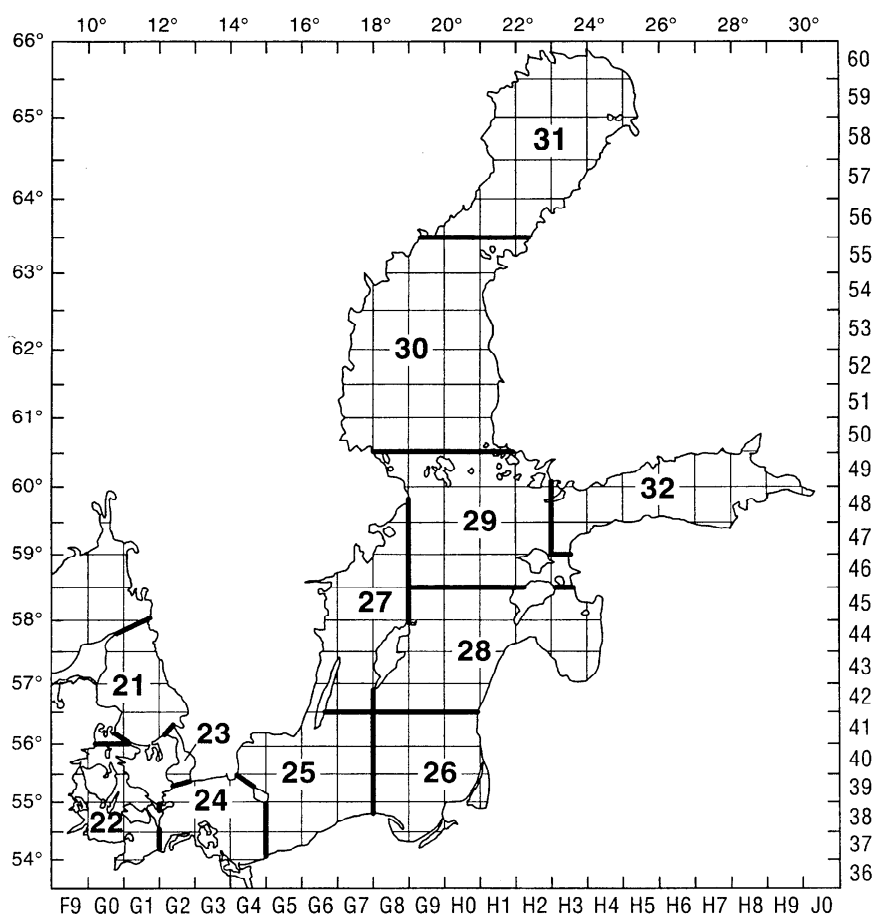


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I General framework

This is the Technical Report 2009 (TR 2009) reporting the achieved national data collection based on the Finnish National Programme 2009-2010 (NP 2009-2010). The work has been done under the DCF: Council Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008, Commission Regulation (EC) N° 655/2008 and Commission Decision N° 2008/949/EC.

The data collection under this NP 2009 was carried out solely in the Baltic Sea region (IIIb-d).

Major change in approach compared to the years before results from the change in the legal basis from DCR to DCF.

II National data collection organisation

II.A National correspondent and participating institutes

National correspondent

The administration of this national data collection programme is in the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), which designates a national correspondent in charge of the implementation of this programme and the DCR.

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National co-ordination meetings

Two national co-ordination meetings were organised in 2009 as planned.

The 1st meeting was convened at FGFRI premises in Helsinki, 10-11.3.2009. The main focus of the meeting was on the implementation and practises of the new DCF in the collection of biological data. Therefore the participation of the meeting consisted of the FGFRI personnel (scientists and technicians) involved in the collection of biological data in the sea area (about 20 persons). The agenda consisted of following items: Overview of effects of the new DCF on data collection practices; Metier and stock based sampling in practise; Age determinations; Maturity determinations.

The 2nd meeting was convened at FGFRI premises in Helsinki, 14.10.2009. The main emphasis of this meeting was on the general co-ordination of the implementation of the DCF. The NC from MAF and the FGFRI personnel responsible for carrying out specific data collection tasks (12 persons) took part in the 2nd meeting which agenda consisted of following items: Status of implementation of NP 2009-2010; Possible amendments of NP 2009-2010 by 31.10.2010; Future prospects of the EU Data Collection and the data collection process at FGFRI; Review of status of the database development; Setting up a schedule for preparation of the NP 2011-2013.

II.B Regional and International co-ordination

II.B.1 Attendance of international meetings

An overview of the international co-ordination meetings under the NP 2009-2010 is presented in Standard table II.B.1.

There were some changes in our attendance in the international co-ordination meetings in 2009:

- No participants in Transversal workshop on fishing capacity (WS not arranged in 2009)
- RCM North Sea/ Economic added on the list (COM informed about inclusion)
- WGCHAIRS added on the list (COM informed about inclusion)
- Liaison meeting added on the list (agreed with COM)

Otherwise our attendance of international meetings was realised as planned.

II.B.2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

The regional co-ordination will mainly take place within the framework of Regional Coordination Meeting for Baltic Area (RCM Baltic), including one annual meeting (3-4 participants). The elements of regional co-ordination and co-operation are given in the relevant NP Proposal sections.

RCM Baltic 2007 recommendations

Section 4.1; Regional sampling

The RCM is aware of FISH/2007/03 Lot 5: Development of tools for logbook data analysis, but will draw the attention to that some temporary solutions are needed until more permanent solutions are established based on the results of the outcome of this study.

Until robust international guidelines for analysis of logbook data is available RCM Baltic recommends that:

at a trip level, or at a fishing operation level when possible, the retained part of the catch should be classified by target assemblage (demersal, freshwater, anadromous) and sorted by weight. The target assemblage that comes up at the first position should be considered as the target assemblage to report in the matrix.

when logbook data is incomplete regarding the number of rigs for demersal trawls the fishing trips/fishing operations should be allocated to OTB.

the selectivity devices Bacoma and T90 should be treated as one strata until it is possible to distinguish between them in the logbooks.

midwater otter trawls (OTM) are allocated to the OTM fishing activity even if they sometimes are operated very close to the bottom.

Response

The recommendations are taken into account.

III Module of evaluation of the fishing sector

III.A General description of the fishing sector

In the end of 2009, the Finnish fishing fleet numbered 3270 registered vessels. Most of the vessels (3173) were less than 12 meter (LOA), and they were used in coastal fishing. The overall capacity of the vessels in the beginning of 2009 was 16 000 GT and power 171 000 kW. The fleet is divided into four segments: pelagic trawlers (114 vessels), demersal trawlers (1) and vessels with passive gears (28) that use nets and lines. The remaining vessels belong to a segment of small scale coastal fishing vessels under 12 meters.

A big part of the vessels are used seasonally only. One should keep in mind too, that depending on the winter and latitude, the coastal waters in Finland are ice covered over several months, and then fishing vessels are not in use. Regardless that, fishing can be conducted under ice cover. Then fishing vessels can be replaced for instance by snowmobiles.

The total fish catch level in Finland has been 120-160 000 tons in the previous years. In 2009 commercial marine catch was about 118 000 tons. The bulk of the catch consisted of Baltic herring, 90 000 tons, followed by sprat, 23 000 tons. Commercial catch in inland waters in 2008 was 3 900 tons, of which two thirds was vendace. Total catch of recreational fishermen in 2008 was 33 000 tons, of which 7 800 tons was caught in the Baltic Sea and the rest in the inland waters.

III.B Economic variables - Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d)

III.B.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Data sources

Economic data collection was based on hierarchical multi-stage survey that combines information from different data sources. Main sources were fishery register database KAKE (includes log book/landings data, fishing vessel register, first hand sales of quota species), financial database in Statistic Finland (SF) and account survey. Starting from 2009, there were new account data available for the coastal fishermen collected by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in connection to seal damage compensation applications.

Target frame population

The evaluation of the economic situation in the fishing sector covers all fishing vessels in the fishing vessel register. Each vessel is owned by fishing unit: fishing unit can be a company, fisherman or household. These fishing units comprise the frame target population of economic data collection.

Log book data is linked to vessels (exception for coastal fishing) to divide them into active or inactive vessels.

All fishing units were segmented with auxiliary information from fishing vessel register and log book data.

Sampling and data collection

Economic data collection was conducted with hierarchical multi-stage survey. Information on catches by species, value of landings by species, effort data and vessel capacity information was collected by vessel. This data was collected exhaustively for all vessels. Economic data was collected by fishing unit: company or fisherman (including family members). Financial statements data for fishing firms with income over a threshold level of € 9 838 were obtained from the database of Statistics Finland (SF) on Financial statements of Industry. This group of firms produce about 60% of total turnover of Finnish fishing fleet. The coverage of the financial statements for this group is good. Primary sources of financial statements data in Statistics Finland are direct inquiries and business taxation material supplemented by Business Register data. Data is based on corporate balance sheet and profit and loss account data. Statistics Finland will check for the validity of the data. Financial data gives a reliable estimate for profitability of the larger vessels, but the disaggregation of cost items does not follow that in regulation. Therefore the cost and earnings data needs to be collected with an additional account survey on larger fishing firms (in practice trawlers). In 2009 this cost structure was obtained partly from the account surveys of the previous years.

Account data for the coastal fishermen is available from the sources of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Fishermen who have suffered catch damages and losses caused by seals have an opportunity to apply for compensation for the economic loss. The compensation is paid by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. For the application, the fishermen need to attach detailed account data. The data is presented

according to the cost and earnings structure defined by the DCF regulations. The number of vessels/fishing units in this account data was about 240 in 2008.

Estimation

Cost and earnings estimates were done by design-based and model assisted regression and ratio estimation. First the total revenue was estimated with regression using the total value of catches. Then total costs were estimated for total population per segments from the total revenue. The cost variables were estimated as ratio estimates from the total costs.

Capital value and costs were collected with an account survey and from balance sheets in financial statements. Capital value was estimated based on the vessel's tonnage, power and age.

Employment was estimated based on previous activity survey and log book information. Employment was presented in engaged persons and FTE. FTE was taken from the official FTE statistics of Statistics Finland. Opportunity costs for unpaid labour were estimated based on these employment estimators.

Fuel consumption

Fuel costs were estimated based on previous account survey. Fuel consumption was estimated based on the costs by fleet segments.

Fish prices

The price data on fish subject to quota (Baltic herring, sprat, salmon, and cod) were calculated from the purchasing notifications submitted by the first hand purchasers of fish to the Regional Employment and Economic Development Centres. The price data were checked with the book keeping of 18 fish wholesalers in coastal areas. The prices of other fish species were calculated from that data. The prices were calculated by species, size-class, degree of processing, and by month.

Reference year

The reference year of economic data collection is the preceding year. Preliminary financial statements data will be available on the 4th quarter after the reference year. Therefore information on the economic situation of fishing sector will be provided earliest one year after the reference year investigated.

III.B.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Capacity and landings and effort data covers all vessels. Financial statements are collected for all firms with income over a threshold level of € 9 838 in the database of Statistics Finland (SF) on Financial statements of Industry and Business register. This register gives good coverage in number of firms and share of production.

However, there is under-coverage in the Business Register (compared to target frame population) that needed to be estimated with a regression and cost structure analysis.

Accuracy of these estimates was as planned in the NP. For coastal vessels (activity less than the threshold) more detailed account data was obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. However, also for the coastal vessels, there is under-coverage compared to the target frame population that needed to be estimated. There was more variation for the cost variables than planned due to wider target population than in the previous years.

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

RCM recommendations are applied if applicable.

III.B.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The estimates of total cost structure is expected to be reasonable, but the reliability estimates of separate cost items could be further improved. All cost items will be inquired in the questionnaire but the reliable estimates cannot be fully guaranteed.

Fuel consumption was estimated based on fuel costs. Offshore vessels use same fuel type (light fuel oil) and fuel consumption can be estimated. Coastal vessels are equipped with various engines that use various fuel types. Therefore any precise estimates of fuel consumption cannot be produced for this segment.

III.C Biological - metier-related variables - Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d)

III.C.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

The information collected during the sampling year has been updated into Standard tables III.C.3, III.C.5 and III.C.6. Standard table III.C.4, which is a new table, was considered to be 'not applicable'. However, in case of the metiers ranked for sampling, the sampling frame is equal to metier.

Metier FYK_ANA_0_0_0

This fishery is targeting salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*).

Amount of sampled salmon fishing trips was altogether 195 (planned 130) and number of sampled salmon was 2544 (planned 2550).

Number of sampled sea trout was 43 specimens (planned 500) and 18 specimens were sampled from other metiers. In addition 264 tag recoveries were received from the public. The taggings of sea trout are done at the national expense, but the data, however, is applicable in monitoring and assessment purposes. The shortfall in the number of sampled sea trout occurred because of human error. The intention was to collect the sea trout samples parallel with the salmon sampling (self-sampling by fishermen), but instructions to the fishermen were missing the order to collect also sea trout. The sampling of sea trout was started in August once the shortcoming was realised, but most of the fishing season was passed at that point.

In other respects the samples were collected as planned.

Metier FYK_SPF_0_0_0

This fishery is targeting herring (*Clupea harengus*).

Amount of sampled herring fishing trips was 20 (planned 20) and the achieved number of length measurements was 7623.

Metiers GNS_FWS_0_0_0 COREG and FYK_FWS_0_0_0 COREG

Samples of fisheries targeting Common whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus*) were collected as planned. Amount of fishing trips sampled was altogether 28 (planned 31) and number of fish 1641 (1750).

Metiers GNS_FWS_0_0_0 PERCIF and FYK_FWS_0_0_0 PERCIF

This fishery is targeting pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*) and perch (*Perca fluviatilis*). Pike (*Esox lucius*) is a by-catch species to be sampled.

The number of measured pike-perch (3236) was below the number of planned measurements (3870). The achievement fell short (84%) despite the fact that the number of sampled fishing trips was considerably high: 67 (planned 43).

Samples of fisheries targeting perch were collected as planned. The amount of measured specimens was 2544 (planned 2580).

The number of measured pike, 93 specimens, was well below planned (450), resulting 21% achievement. In addition, 21 specimens of pike were measured in sampling of metiers GNS_FWS_0_0_0 COREG and FYK_FWS_0_0_0 COREG, increasing the total number of pike measurements to 114 specimens (25% achievement).

The asymmetry in the numbers of measured and sampled pike-perch is related to the decreasing professional catch of pike-perch in recent years and the observed change of the behaviour of pike-perch (areas, depths, timings), which is possibly a part of a larger change in the coastal ecosystem and has made the fishery less predictable and thus less successful. This caused difficulties and failures in sampling, as well.

The low number of the measurements of pike was related to the fact that pike is in practice always caught as by-catch, and pike catch has been decreasing in recent years.

Metier OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0

This fishery is targeting herring (*Clupea harengus*) and sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*).

The achieved sampling for metier OTM_SPF_16-31_0_0 was 88 % for trips, and 73%% for sprat length measurements.

The main reason for shortfall in *sampled trips* is unexpected reduction of fisheries activities in SD 31 in 3rd and 4th year-quarters. The total landings in SD 31 decreased by one third compared to the reference years for planning.

As sprat sampling is based only on the sampling of mixed landings of herring and sprat, the shortfall in *sprat length measurements* is a consequence of smaller share of sprat in the landings than was expected.

In other respects the sampling realised as planned.

III.C.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Metier FYK_ANA_all_0_0

Samples of fisheries targeting salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*). CV value for the salmon samples was 7-8%, which is good enough for the salmon. Nevertheless, the required precision level criterion might not be applicable for salmon because the sampling aims also to monitor the origin (stock specifically + wild/reared) of fish in the catch during the whole fishing season (i.e. spawning migration period at the coast). In the salmon stock assessment the mean weights per age have not been used for raising the salmon catches so far. CV value of the sea trout samples has not been computed because of the low number of samples. If the tag return data are used the CV for then was about 50%. For the sea trout any analytical assessment that would utilise the catch sample data has not been conducted so far.

Precision estimates

The precision estimates are presented for salmon and sea trout in Standard table III.C.5. The rest of the precision estimates will be calculated in the near future and they will be delivered by 25 June 2010 (amended Annex I, and revised Standard tables III.C.5 and III.E.3).

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

RCM Baltic 2008 Recommendation

In the NP proposals, a short description of all métiers selected by the 90% ranking procedure should be provided. Such a table would enable RCM to identify whether a métier with the same name covers the same or different fisheries in different NPs.

Response

Actions have been taken e.g. Finland attached the metier descriptions in the NP 2011-2013 proposal

III.C.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Metier FYK_ANA_all_0_0

Sampling season for sea trout will be prolonged in 2010 to cover the whole fishing season and some more fishermen will be involved to the sampling. However, the objective to collect altogether 500 sea trout samples from the coastal trapnet fishery might still be too ambitious. The sea trout is mainly a sporadic by-catch to the professional fishermen, and meeting the objective would require much more self sampling fishermen than present. To find more fishermen willing to commit to sampling is in practise very difficult. As a result the objective on the number of samples needs evidently to be lowered in the future.

III.D Recreational fisheries - Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d)

III.D.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

In 2008, there were about 1.8 (± 0.1) million recreational fishermen in about one million households in Finland. Of those, about 230 000 fishermen participated in fishing only by rowing or steering a boat. The proportion of recreational fishermen of the total Finnish population was 34 (± 2) per cent. The total catch amounted to 33 (± 4) million kg, of which 76 per cent was taken in inland waters. The marine recreational catch in 2008 was about 7.8 (± 2.4) mill kg. Perch and pike made up over half of the catch. The salmon catch in the sea area was estimated to be 54 (± 26) and the eel catch 13 (± 11) tons. The cod catch in 2008 was only one ton. The total commercial marine catch was 111.6 million kg in 2008. Excluding the Baltic herring and sprat catch the proportion of the marine recreational catch of the total marine catch was 63 percent.

Data on recreational fisheries in Finland is collected by postal surveys, separately for recreational catches in the sea area and for recreational salmon catches in rivers.

Recreational catches in the sea area

The data on recreational fishing in the sea area was collected as planned in the NP proposal - by a postal survey using a sample drawn from the population register maintained by the Finnish Population Register Centre. The whole recreational catch was surveyed, but a special attention was drawn to marine catches of salmon, cod and eel for instance in terms of sample allocation.

The Finnish population register was the frame population, because there was no covering and usable register on the recreational fishermen. On the other hand, one could not predestinate, whether the fishermen contacted had been fishing at the sea, in inland waters or both. The statistical unit in the recreational fishing statistics was the household. The term recreational fishing included all the fishing carried out by Finnish households with the exception of professional fishermen and their households.

The process of collecting catch data of recreational fishing in 2008 started in the end of 2008 by planning and a preparatory work of the survey. This included planning the inquiry forms, commissioning the frame register and designing and extracting the sample. The postal inquiries were sent in the beginning of 2009.

There were no deviations in the data collection compared to what was planned in the NP proposal.

Recreational salmon catches in rivers

A register of sold licences for recreational fisheries in the River Tornionjoki was created. The register included 6941 fishermen as a target population, out of which 1500 fishermen were randomly selected to receive a postal questionnaire. The response rate was 63% after two reminders. All data were stored into databases and analysed.

The postal query concerning rod fishery was carried out in the River Simojoki. An on-line register of licence sales, including 1350 licences, was created to internet during

the year 2009 fishing season. 498 postal questionnaires were sent to a random sample of the fishermen. The response rate was 52% after two reminders. Moreover, 115 fishermen had returned voluntarily the question form soon after their fishing trip was over. All data were stored into databases and analysed.

Catch statistics were/will be reported in several national and international reports and working groups, like in the ICES Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group (WGBAST 2010).

III.D.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Recreational catches in the sea area

The sample comprised 6000 household-dwelling units. One household-dwelling unit consists of the persons living permanently in the same dwelling and comprises one or more households. The sampling was targeted at persons aged 18-74 years.

The sample design was stratified sampling. The strata were formed taking into account the location of the person's municipality of residence, the type of municipality and the location of the municipality in relation to the sea. There were six strata in all.

The questionnaire had four pages, and the focus of the questions was on the age and gender of the persons in the households and the persons participating in fishing, the importance of fishing as a hobby, fishing activity by fishing area, and catch sizes. The survey was conducted at the beginning of 2009. Contact was made three times. The number of returned questionnaires was 3331, or 56 per cent of those posted.

All the forms were checked before data were recorded. The recorded data were also submitted to various logic and limit value editing procedures. Discrepancies and any errors found were checked against the original forms and, if necessary, the data record was amended.

A total of 64 responses were rejected because it was not clear whether the household had been fishing in 2008 or not. Four of the responses were classified as professional fishermen on the basis of the registers of professional fishermen at the disposal of the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute. The computation data included the responses of 1583 fishing households and 1684 non-fishing households.

For those who did not respond to the postal questionnaire, post-sampling was conducted as a telephone interview. The size of the sample was 1041 and the response percentage was 62. The purpose of the post-sampling was to establish the proportion of fishing households among non-responders. In the postal questionnaire, the proportion of those fishing was 52% in the first, 45% in the second and 45% in the third contact group. The post-sampling gave the proportion of those fishing as 43%.

For the computation, a weighting factor was formed for each statistical unit, or household. The survey data (catch size) for the household was multiplied by that factor. The weighting factor was formed from the inverses of the inclusion probability and response probability of the sampling unit, that is, household-dwelling unit, and from the calibration weight. The partial loss due to missing data items was taken into account using hierarchical imputation.

The results of the pilot studies have proved that, the accuracy of the catch estimates will increase, while the sample size gets larger. On the other hand, the marginal

benefit will decrease while increasing the sample size. Salmon, cod and eel are caught by relatively very few fishermen, and in addition, the variation of these uncommon catches by fishermen is relatively high. Because of these facts, the confidence intervals of those catch estimates are always quite wide even in the case of large sample sizes (sample size several thousands).

The post-sampling for non-respondents helps to correct the bias resulting from the differences between respondents and non-respondents. If the bias is not taken into account, the catch and number of fishermen would be overestimated.

There were no deviations in the achieved accuracy compared to what was planned in the NP proposal.

Recreational salmon catches in rivers

The fishers who will receive mailed questionnaires are sampled from the registers at a rate making it possible to estimate salmon catches at level 1 precision (a precision of $\pm 25\%$ for a 95% confidence level):

- River Tornionjoki: sampling rate over 1:5,
- River Simojoki: sampling rate over 1:4.

The length distribution estimates of the catch will be acquired by catch samples (see chapter III.E.2.5.).

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

RCM Baltic 2008 Recommendation

The RCM Baltic recommends that MS follow the request for preparation of the WKSMRF (Workshop on Sampling Methods for Recreational Fisheries), given in the ICES resolution (see <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/recs/2008recs.asp>).

Response

Finland followed the request for preparation and also took part in the ICES WKSMRF.

III.D.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No shortfalls.

The pilot studies on recreational salmon fishery and cod fishery in the sea area were conducted earlier. A basic result of the pilot studies was that a cost-efficient data collection strategy, with respect to the reliability, is to collect data on recreational fishing every second year. Therefore the next survey will be conducted in 2011 (referring to the year 2010), but there will be no survey in 2010. This practice will produce a continuous and methodologically stable biennial time-series of recreational catches.

III.E Stock-related variables - Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d)

III.E.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

The information collected in the sea area for all the sampled species and/or stocks during year 2009 has been updated into Standard table III.E.3. However, the table was considered to be 'not applicable' for reporting the stock-related variables for wild salmon stocks, which results are reported in the TR text under heading 'Monitoring of juvenile salmon and number of spawners in River Tornionjoki and River Simojoki' (below).

Herring (*Clupea harengus*)

Oversampling for maturities and sex-ratios in herring stock 25-29, 32 (160% achievement) does not have financial implications, because these variables are determined from the same individuals that are sampled for lengths and weights at age.

The shortfall for lengths and weights at age of herring stock in SD 31 (55% achievement) was mainly due to unexpectedly short fishing season in 2009, which was basically only second half of 2nd year quarter and first half of the 3rd year quarter. This combined with increased retirement rate within fishermen, decreased effort due to low price for industrial landings and fishermen's reluctance for allowing sampling of their catches resulted only to 55% achievement. However, on the regional level, taken also into account the Swedish sampling, the overall number of sampled individuals from the stock was adequate for stock analysis.

In other respects the sampling for stock-related variables of herring realised about as planned.

Common whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus*)

Samples of Common whitefish were taken extensively from both forms (river-spawning migratory whitefish and sea-spawning whitefish) and most common gear types. The achieved number of sampled individuals (1665) resulted to 95% achievement.

Salmon (*Salmo salar*)

Sampling for stock-related variables in the sea area

Salmon samples were taken from the coastal trapnet fisheries (Metier FYK_ANA_all_0_0) and also from the river catches of River Tornionjoki. Amount of individual samples was 100 % of the plan.

In order to estimate the stock composition of the catches altogether 1300 individual samples were analysed by the DNA-microsatellite techniques, which fully followed the plan. From the coastal catches of the Gulf of Bothnia 800 salmon were analysed and from the Main Basin off-shore long-line fishery 500 salmon catches were analysed. The coastal samples were resampled from the pooled Finnish and Swedish catches and the Main Basin samples were from the Polish and Finnish catches.

Monitoring of juvenile salmon and number of spawners in River Tornionjoki and River Simojoki

The table below indicates the realization of the data collection in the Finnish salmon rivers:

	River Simojoki	River Tornionjoki	River Kiiminkijoki
Smolt trapping	Mid-May – end of June, with smolt trap and smolt screw	Mid- May– end of June	- [not planned]
Electrofishing	August-September, 36 sites	August – September, 92 sites	August, 19 sites
Echo sounding	Mid-May - Late August	Late May – late August	- [not planned]

Smolt trapping was successfully carried out in the rivers Tornionjoki and Simojoki at the same locations as in previous years. Thousands of smolts were marked, released and recaptured to estimate the catchability of the smolt traps. Based on the results of smolt trapping almost 1.1 million (CV 42%) and about 23 000 (CV 29%) wild salmon smolts migrated to the sea from the rivers Tornionjoki and Simojoki, respectively. The precision level of the estimates was quite typical, and the estimates were successfully utilised together with the electrofishing data (below) as input for the Baltic salmon assessment (ICES 2010).

Electrofishing was successfully carried out in 92 sites in the River Tornionjoki, in 36 sites in the River Simojoki, and in 20 sites in the River Kiiminkijoki for evaluating the density of juvenile salmon. In the River Tornionjoki mean density of one-summer old (age 0+) wild salmon parr decreased from the previous year, but the mean density of older parr increased. In the River Simojoki the mean densities of the both age groups increased considerably from 2008. Parr densities in the River Kiiminkijoki somewhat increased from the previous year.

To count salmon spawners in 2009, DIDSON (Dual-frequency IDentification SONar) echosounder units were mounted in the rivers Tornionjoki and Simojoki. As indicated in the NP 2009-2010, this was the first time to monitor of spawners in the Tornionjoki. In the both rivers, echo sounder units were mounted successfully and fish passage was monitored over the season of spawning migration of salmon. Certain components of the DIDSON broke down a few times in the Tornionjoki due to voltage peaks caused by thunderstorms. This interrupted data collection for some periods, but the timely coverage of monitoring was anyhow good enough to allow for interpolation of salmon counts for the days with missing data. Total of 31 780 and 1150 salmon sized targets migrated upstream through the sounder beams in the Tornionjoki and Simojoki, respectively. All data has been stored, post-processed and analysed.

Sea trout (*Salmo trutta*)

Sea trout samples were taken from the coastal trapnet fisheries (Metier FYK_ANA_all_0_0), and also some samples accumulated from the coastal gillnet fishery along with the sampling for other species. Amount of the samples was about 10 % of the plan, but if the tag returns are used the amount sums up to 307 samples being 61 % of the target. The tagging, however, has not been funded from the DCF

anymore and therefore we have been trying to find other cost-effective means for sampling. The plan to collect 500 samples annually may have been a bit too ambitious.

Pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*)

The number of specimens sampled for age determination, 3234, exceeded the number planned (2100), resulting 154% achievement.

The asymmetry in the numbers of measured and sampled pike-perch is related to the decreasing professional catch of pike-perch in recent years and the observed change of the behaviour of pike-perch (areas, depths, timings), which is possibly a part of a larger change in the coastal ecosystem and has made the fishery less predictable and thus less successful. This caused difficulties and failures in sampling, as well.

Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*)

Oversampling for sprat (206% achievement in length@age and weight@age) results partly from the fact that the extra sampling for maturities in the spring was mistakenly not taken into account in the planning. In addition, the unexpectedly wide length distribution in the sprat catches caused oversampling as a consequence of making 10 age-readings/year- quarter/5mm length-class.

Overall, the total number of samples was about in the level of a 'normal' year, which was also the basis for budgeting the work and therefore the excess in sampling did not cause any considerable additional expense.

III.E.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Salmon (*Salmo salar*)

Sampling for stock-related variables in the sea area

In the sea catch samples the CV value for length at age was about 8%, for weight at age about 30%, and for sex at age about 150 %. Even though CV values are relatively high they are good enough for the salmon assessment purposes. The characteristics of the salmon population structure in terms of length, weight and sex at age just result high CV values as a result of the large variation, and therefore increasing the sample size would be useless. In addition, the required precision level criterion might not be applicable for salmon because the sampling aims also to monitor the origin (stock specifically + wild/reared) of fish in the catch during the whole fishing season (i.e. spawning migration period at the coast). In the salmon stock assessment the mean weights per age have not been used for raising the salmon catches so far.

Monitoring of juvenile salmon and number of spawners in River Tornionjoki and River Simojoki

The stock-based variables to be monitored for Baltic salmon in the spawning rivers differ greatly from the variables monitored for the other species and areas within E.III. In the case of salmon rivers, abundance and abundance indices are the variables of interest, and this information is also utilized in non-typical ways in stock assessment (ICES WGBAST). Therefore, the precision targets required for other monitoring within E.III is not applicable for river monitoring of salmon. ICES

WGBAST has not set any specific precision requirements for the salmon river data. This is mainly due to two reasons:

- The achieved precision is highly river specific and the precision achieved in one river simply cannot be achieved in another river due to extremely varying river conditions
- ICES WGBAST salmon assessment allows effective utilization of data with varying precision, thus, there are no strict, well based rules to be set for the data quality.

In case of smolt trapping, the precision level of the estimates was quite typical (CV's 42% and 29% for the estimates of abundance of wild salmon smolts migrated to the sea from the rivers Tornionjoki and Simojoki, respectively).

In case of index of abundance of parr (electrofishing data), the precision of monitoring is related to the number of sampling sites and this uncertainty is incorporated by ICES WGBAST. In the rivers Tornionjoki and Simojoki the numbers of sampling sites are amongst the highest in the Baltic rivers.

Thus far, no procedure been established for estimating the precision on the number of ascending individuals (echo sounding data). There are, however, plans to gradually develop the study design and analysis of data to allow for estimation of the precision.

Data from the rivers Tornionjoki and Simojoki were successfully utilised as input for the Baltic salmon assessment (ICES 2010).

Sea trout (*Salmo trutta*)

In the sea trout tag recovery data the CV value for length at age was about 45%, for weight at age about 60%, and for sex at age about 150 %. The high CV values were caused partly by the low number of the samples. The aim for the future sampling is to increase the number of the samples from the present. However, the required precision level criterion might not be applicable for sea trout because of the characteristics of the population structure (large variation on an age group). So far, no analytical assessment utilising these population parameters has been conducted for the sea trout.

Precision estimates

The precision estimates are presented for salmon and sea trout in Standard table III.E.3. The rest of the precision estimates will be calculated in the near future and they will be delivered by 25 June 2010 (amended Annex I, and revised Standard tables III.C.5 and III.E.3).

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

The recommendations are/ have been taken into account.

III.E.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Actions are taken in 2010 to avoid periodic interruptions due to thunderstorms in the collection of data on salmon spawners by DIDSON sounders. More powerful shields against voltage peaks are being built up. Moreover, long cables (which easily create electric fields

around them) are largely replaced by wireless connections between the underwater parts of the equipment and the control laptops.

III.F Transversal variables - Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d)

III.F.1 Capacity

III.F.1.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

The number and characters of the vessels according to segments is available in fishing vessel register. All vessels, even non-active vessels, and auxiliary vessels are included in the vessel register. The maintenance and continuous update of the register is allocated regionally to the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY centres) and to the provincial government of the Åland islands. The fleet register data is merged with the log-book and coastal fishery data. The latter two data contain complete information on catches, effort and gears for the entire fleet. For more details, see Effort and landings.

III.F.1.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Information was complete.

III.F.1.3 Actions to avoid shortfalls

III.F.2 Effort

III.F.2.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Fishing effort data will be obtained besides the collection of catch data. Target population of fishing effort data consists of all the vessels that are used in commercial fishing and, of all professional fishermen, who have a personal reporting obligation. Fishing effort will be collected by fishing occasion-based reports (logbooks) and so called coastal fishery reports for vessels <10m. Fishing effort will be collected according to categorisation corresponding to the regulation.

Preliminary data for the reference year will be available in January-March next year. Final data will be available correspondingly by June.

III.F.2.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

The data is basically complete and required quality will be achieved.

The procedure of catch/landings and effort data compilation contains following stages:

1. The raw data is physically collected to FGFRI from fisheries control system maintained by regional authorities.
2. The data is checked to find out logical errors, and corrected accordingly. Yearly number of the catch/landings reports is about 20 000.
3. The data is checked with special emphasis on the discards reporting. Especially in the salmon fishery, where seals eat a meaningful part of the catch, the fishermen often estimate the discards more in qualitative terms than with numeric data. This causes a lot of manual checking.

4. The partial non-response (of single variables in observation level) is evaluated, and corrected by statistical imputation methods. It should be noted, that errors or missing information are quite common in effort data, especially in case of non-quota species.
5. The data is crosschecked with independent data, i.e. fish first hand sales notes. The discrepancies are identified, the need for corrections is evaluated and the data is supplemented.
6. The data is complemented with the landings data from other countries.
7. The representativeness of data is evaluated against the target population. The effects of non-response are corrected by statistical estimation. For that, the data is post stratified.
8. The confidence levels (error term) of the estimates are calculated with respect to the non-response.
9. The needed tabulation and cross tabulation with background variables are calculated.
10. The principles, hypotheses and procedures are documented and the data is harmonized for the submission to the database.
11. The original data forms are returned to the regional fisheries control authorities.

III.F.2.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

There is a landings data exchange between the relevant foreign authorities.

We interpret that there is no relevant RCM recommendations in nation level.

III.F.2.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

III.F.3 Landings

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

Target population of catch and landings data consists of all the vessels used in commercial fishing and, of all the fishermen who have a personal reporting obligation. This means that the data is basically complete, also for <10m vessels. Catches and landings will be reported according to DCF.

Catches and landings of vessels >10 meters will be collected by fishing occasion-based reports (logbooks). Catches and landings of vessels <10 meters (so called coastal fishery) will be collected by monthly reports. In addition, catches and landings of salmon in coastal fishery will be collected by fishing occasion-based reports. The landings of Finnish vessels abroad, as well as foreign vessel landings to Finnish ports are surveyed by logbooks, landings declarations and sales notes, and by the crosschecking of the different data. There is a landings data exchange between the relevant foreign authorities.

The conversion factors are presented in Standard table III.F.2, and they follow the ones used in fisheries control.

Yearly data on catches and landings will be available during the 3rd quarter of the year that follows the referred statistical year. Preliminary data for the fish stock assessment is available in the 1st quarter.

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

The data is basically complete and required precision and confidence levels will be achieved.

For the data qualification procedure refer to paragraph “Effort”.

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

For the regional co-ordination refer to paragraph “Effort”.

III.F.3.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

III.G Research surveys at sea

III.G.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Due to stormy weather conditions in the joint Estonian - Finnish survey (BIAS survey in SD's 28, 29 and 32) on hired Polish R/V BALTICA, two days at sea were missed and the achieved number of control hauls was only 18 out of 26 planned (69 % achievement). Because of the same circumstances, the planned transects for echo-integration were re-shaped during the survey. However, the WGBIFS 2010 considered the geographical coverage, acoustic results and biological samples to be adequate and representative for the surveyed areas.

In other respects the planned research surveys at sea realised about as planned (see Standard table III.G.1).

III.G.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

None

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

No RCM recommendations to follow concerning surveys.

III.G.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

In previous years the timing of the survey has been changed to earlier period in order to avoid storms.

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

IV.A Collection of data concerning the aquaculture

IV.A.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Aquaculture production has a significant role in Finnish fishery sector. Aquaculture production dominates the fishery market in the primary production and also as a raw material supply for processing industry. In 2008, altogether 359 fish farm firms or units with natural food ponds were in operation. Of these, 109 firms had food fish production and 69 firms specialised in fry production. Some firms have both production lines. The number of farmers with natural food ponds was 220. However, only a small part of these firms have aquaculture as their main activity. The sector employed about 1200 persons (engaged workers).

Food fish is produced mostly at the marine farms but also in inland farms. These firms have traditionally concentrated on rainbow trout, but during the past years increasingly on European whitefish. The food fish production in 2008 was 12,600 tons. Rainbow trout is by far most important species with over 90% of both in volume and value of food fish production. The production of European whitefish has been increasing steadily during the past ten years. In 2008, the value of the production reached 10% of the total food fish production.

Some of the food fish firms have integrated fry production but there are also specialised juvenile fish producers. There are two main production methods in juvenile production: tanks and natural food ponds. Hatcheries and nurseries together with natural food ponds produce numerous fish species for on-growing and stocking purposes..

There are also few farms producing crayfish fry, but the number of these farms is limited and therefore it is not possible to have separate segment.

Segmentation

The Finnish aquaculture production was divided into four main segments:

- Marine aquaculture (food fish production)
- Inland aquaculture (food fish production)
- Juvenile and fry production
- Combined (food fish and juvenile production)

Marine aquaculture regards production in cages. Most marine farms are specialised in rainbow trout production, some produce also European whitefish. Inland food fish production regards mainly raceways, but also in cages in lakes. Some producers have integrated production of fry. This group forms the combined segment. Juvenile production is important part of the sector. It produces around one third of the sector total in value. The major part of the juvenile production in number is released to natural waters to enhance the fish production. Natural food pond production segment is very heterogeneous and fragmented. Most of the production is considered small scale and subsidiary business mainly for agriculture.

Data sources

Economic data collection of aquaculture sector combines information from different data sources. Main sources were production survey, financial database in Statistic Finland (SF) and account survey.

Target frame population

The target population follows the definition in the DCR. Target frame was composed from Business register of enterprises with aquaculture as their main activity (135 enterprises in 2008). This target frame was supplemented with information of the production survey that was collected from all fish farms in the Fish farm register of MAF. With the production survey information, the firms were segmented according to their main activity and also further stratified to implement efficient data collection.

Sampling and data collection

Economic data collection was conducted with hierarchical multi-stage survey. The production survey was collected exhaustively. In the latter survey we enquired other business activities, employment, production value and methods and production per species. This data was used to divide firms into segments.

Financial statements were available in SF for all firms in Business register with aquaculture as their main activity. Primary sources of financial statements data in Statistics Finland are direct inquiries and business taxation material supplemented by Business Register data. Data is based on corporate balance sheet and profit and loss account data. Statistics Finland checks for the validity of the data. Any missing data was estimated within stratum. Financial data gives a reliable estimate for cost structure as whole, but the disaggregation of cost items does not follow that in regulation. Therefore the cost and earnings data were collected by account survey on aquaculture firms. Account data was surveyed by stratified survey to detect the detailed cost structure of fish farms. This questionnaire includes all variables in the regulation.

Estimation

Cost and earnings estimates were done by design-based and model assisted regression and ratio estimation.. The cost variables were estimated with ratio estimation from account data. Production survey was collected exhaustively from the producers. Any missing information were estimated by stratum.

Employment was estimated based on production survey. Employment was presented in engaged persons and FTE. FTE was obtained from the official FTE statistics of Statistics Finland.

Reference year

The reference year of economic data collection is the preceding year. Preliminary financial statements data will be available on the 4th quarter after the reference year. Therefore information of the economic situation of aquaculture sector will be provided earliest one year after the period investigated.

IV.A.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Financial statements were available for all firms in Business register having aquaculture as the main activity. This register gives full coverage in number of firms. The variation of estimated and separated cost variables was reasonable.

IV.A.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCM recommendations are applied if applicable.

IV.A.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The reliability of separate cost estimates could be further improved. All cost items are inquired in the questionnaire but the reliable estimates cannot be fully guaranteed because of uncertainty in some measurements and high variability between enterprises.

IV.B Collection of data concerning the processing industry

IV.B.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Data sources

Economic data collection concerning the processing industry was carried as a register approach that combines information from several data sources. The main data sources are Business register and Structural business statistics of Statistics Finland and survey information on processing compiled by Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (FGFRI).

Target frame population

The target population follows the definition in the DCR. The target population was all fish processing firms. All operational firms, with fish processing as their main branch, should be listed in the Business Register of Statistics Finland. This target frame is complemented with information of the production survey.

Sampling and data collection

Economic data collection was based on financial statement data and Structural business statistics data of Statistics Finland. The production survey was carried out to update the target frame population and to collect data on employment. The production survey is collected exhaustively. In this biennial survey (last reference year 2007) we enquire other business activities, employment, production methods and production per species.

Financial statements were available in SF for all firms in Business register with fish processing as their main activity. Primary sources of financial statements data in Statistics Finland are direct inquiries and business taxation material supplemented by Business Register data. Data is based on corporate balance sheet and profit and loss account data. Data on structural business statistics covers all cost items in the DCR. The definitions of cost items follow that in Structural Business Statistics.

Estimation

Financial statements are expected to be available for all firms in the Business register having fish processing as the main activity. Statistics Finland checks for the validity of the data. Any missing data was estimated.

Capital costs were the actual costs (net) paid. Capital value was collected from the balance sheet.

Employment was estimated based on production survey and data in SF. Employment was presented in engaged persons and FTE. FTE was obtained from the official FTE statistics of Statistics Finland. Opportunity costs for unpaid labour were estimated based on these employment estimators.

Reference year

The reference year of economic data collection is the preceding year. Preliminary financial statements data will be available on the 4th quarter after the reference year. Therefore information of the economic situation of processing sector will be provided no earlier than one year after the period investigated.

IV.B.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Financial statements are collected exhaustively from the fishing firms in Business Register. Missing information was complemented by information from the production survey. Taken the exhaustive information on financial statements the precision is expected to be high.

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

RCM recommendations are applied if applicable.

IV.B.4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No shortfalls observed.

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

V.A Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Data for ecosystem indicators 1, 2, 3 and 4 are collected on two BIAS surveys Finland is participating (table III G 1). The joint Finnish-Estonian BIAS survey covers part of the sub-division 28 and ICES sub-divisions 29 and 32. The joint Finnish-Swedish BIAS survey covers ICES sub-division 30. Length measurements are made from a sub-sample

VMS data (indicators 5, 6, and 7, table V 1) for Finnish fisheries is collected and used by Finnish fisheries control system. Data is monthly transported from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to FGFRI. The number of vessels included in the VMS is small in the Finnish fleet. In some fleet segments there is only one vessel. Thus the expected temporal and spatial resolution of the VMS data available to end users will be relatively large.

Discarding rates of the commercially important species (indicator 8) is available in the logbooks/landings declarations [landings (net catch) + discards = catch (gross catch)]. This data can be reported yearly.

Data for fuel efficiency of fish capture (indicator 9): The value of the catches was estimated on the basis of logbooks/landings declarations and fish price statistics. The fuel costs for each fleet segment are collected.

V.B Actions to avoid shortfalls

VI Module for management and use of the data

VI.A Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

The data was delivered to various end-users according to what was planned and used in producing the ICES advice and in relevant scientific work. The estimation of the biological parameters followed the standard ICES practises. Data sets were produced and validated according to ICES instructions. Achieved data transmission is presented in Standard table VI.1. The datasets are prepared by the FGFRI according to agreed formats and procedures and handed over to concerned stock-coordinators, uploaded to the Intercatch as well as presented in relevant working groups. The main users of the data collected by Finland are the ICES WG's, especially WGBAST and WGBFAS

The estimates based on transversal variables are compiled with respect to the Code of practice of European Statistics.

The development of the national database continued according to the NP. Main focus in 2009 was in the development of a system for automatic data loading from electronic fish measuring system to the database. Also basic registers needed in database and database structure for transversal variables and economic data were under development. The database development for the data from river monitoring of salmon (which is a new element of the DCF) is considered less urgent. However, the database structures needed for data on adult salmon abundance in rivers were created and adult salmon abundance data is now stored in the database.

The development of regional database was discussed in the RCM Baltic.

VI.B Actions to avoid shortfalls

VII Follow-up of STECF recommendations

The follow-up on relevant recommendations by SGRN is listed below.

STECF recommendation	Responsive action
SG-RN 07-04: 2.3 ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF RCM AND SGRN RECOMMENDATIONS In general, SGRN always finds it difficult to evaluate whether MS has spotted all potentially binding RCM recommendations in the NP proposal or in the Technical reports. To ease the tasks both for SGRN and all MS, SGRN recommends that the Liaison Meeting elaborates a template with all recommendations related to MS actions with a column free for MS to put a footnote. This template should then always be annexed to the individual TR and NP proposals.	We support the idea about having a template ready filled with the recommendations - it would really facilitate the work.
SG-RN 07-04: 2.5 ON GETTING INFORMATION ON FISHING TECHNIQUES FOR VESSELS < 10 METERS In the guidelines, it is often requested to provide details on how the information is collected for the vessels < 10 meters. The reason is that the log-book is not mandatory for vessels under 10 meters, (8 meters in the Baltic, following EC Reg No 52/2006), whereas it is the main source of information for the larger vessels. In order to comply with their obligations, the MS have to elaborate on their own new ways of collecting such information. Among the examples cited is the extension of the log-book regulation to all vessels, the obligation to fill monthly forms, the fishing activity calendar, the sampling for effort and landings, etc... In no case, the sales notes alone may be cited as a standalone source for getting information on gear used or area visited. Moreover, in anticipation of the new DCR which will give due consideration to the fishing activities, SGRN strongly recommends MS to develop appropriate ways of collecting landings and effort by métier for all the vessels belonging to their national fleet register. SGRN reminds that this recommendation was already formulated in Nantes (Anon, 2006a) : “No log-books are currently required for vessels below 10 m. The group recommends that relevant information on fishing activity and economics for those vessels should be collected. The group suggested e.g. fishing calendars, face-to-face interviews, harbour enquiries, sampling, as suitable ways for collecting such information.”	The data collection carried out under the NP 2009 covers the whole fleet.
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 2 ON CHANGES TO SAMPLING WITHIN REPORTING YEAR SGRN realises that there are occasions when proposed sampling allocations eg discard trips allocated to region or fleet, may need to be revised during the year due to changes in fishing patterns by the Member State's fleets. In such cases MS are reminded that the Commission should be informed in a timely fashion. This information should include explanations and reasons for the changes. The Commission will respond to the correspondence. MS are reminded that the minimum requirements of the DCR/DCF should be met.	The recommendation will be followed

SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 3 ON PRECISION LEVELS Since the beginning of the DCR, SGRN has commented every year on precision level issues. The difficulty encountered by MS (SGRN, June 2005, Evaluation 2004 TR), the need for a common tool to harmonise the calculation at the European level (SGRN, July 2007, Evaluation of 2006 TR), the use of precision levels as DCR target (SGRN, July 2006, Evaluation 2005 TR) and general comments on precision levels in general. SGRN reiterates the comment made in July 2007 (SGRN, Evaluation of 2006 and 2007 TR) : “SGRN has repeatedly recommended every MS to estimate the precision of the data obtained by sampling in order to assess the quality of the associated estimates. In SGRN opinion, the best way to explore data is to evaluate the precision with the aim of optimising the sampling design (see Section 7.2 in SGRN-06-03 report, Anon. 2006). More than the exact quantification of the level of uncertainty, the objective of calculating precision levels should be to improve the quality of the data that is collected. In parallel, SGRN has supported the idea of developing a common tool for assessing the accuracy and precision of the biological parameters estimated through sampling programmes. Such a tool has been granted financial support by the Commission through the Call for Service Contracts FISH/2006/15. (COST project) SGRN will continue to request all MS to assess the quality of the estimates even if the different methodologies used prevent the direct comparisons of the results between MS.” The common tool to evaluate the precision of the biological parameters (COST project), was available to the public early in 2009. This tool will authorise all MS to evaluate the bias and calculate the precision of the biological parameters, provided that they export their data following the agreed Data Exchange Format. All MS are then invited to become acquainted with this format and to anticipate the exportation of their data, since the Data Exchange Format is now fully operational and available on the project website (http://wwz.ifremer.fr/cost). However SGRN would like to note that precision levels can also be calculated using available statistical methodologies (e.g. WKSCMFD, ICES, 2004). SGRN also notes that although member states have calculated some or all precision levels these do not meet the required target as per EC 1639/01. Member states are encouraged to find solutions to meet the required targets for example, by increasing the sampling intensity or adopting a regional approach to the estimation of precision levels.	The recommendation will be followed. A Finnish scientist took part in the COST workshop in 2010. According to his experiences, the COST tool is difficult to use for those, who are not familiar with R. We would appreciate the further development of the COST tool to a more user-friendly package. At least in TR 2009 we will use other statistical methods to calculate precision levels.
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 4 ON DCR DATA AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS SGRN notes that data originating from the data collection program are not used for the official landing statistics by some MS's. This creates different landings data sets. SGRN would like to suggest that Member states should consider using data collected under the framework of the DCR for landing statistics since at present data from the DCR represents the best available data set. The use of DCR statistics is a more accurate source of production data for the fishing industry and	In Finland official statistics and information provided under DCF are harmonized

hence this would improve the overall monitoring of the sector.	
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 6 ON DATA BASES UNDER CONSTRUCTION SGRN would like to note that several MS have stated that their databases are still under construction; however a number of years have passed since the start of the data collection regulation (2002 or 2005 depending on MS). SGRN point out those databases should have been fully developed by now, except for minor updates due to new reporting obligations. MS are asked to confirm that their data bases are operational.	Even if there has been several years time to construct data bases, the new obligations of the DCF create a need for more work than just minor updates. After all, the new DCF included whole new modules.
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 9 TECHNICAL REPORT EVALUATION AND NP Technical reports are evaluated against what MS have committed to do in their National Programmes. This put emphasis on the need for SGRN to have access to the final agreed NP in the evaluation process. It also put a large responsibility on SGRN in the evaluation process of the NP to make sure that it is clear what the MS have committed themselves to do in the NP and that the NP is in accordance with the DCF and without gaps.	The guidelines for technical report 2009 were not totally in line with the examples given in the tables. Should one follow the guidelines or the interpretation of them according to the given examples?
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 11 ON THE ECONOMIC DATA MODULES Overall, the quality of the economic modules has further improved. Some drawbacks persist. A few countries have submitted no data or insufficient data, but this number has declined. While some data elements are in compliance with the regulation EC 1639/2001, there is heterogeneity of data between countries. This relates to the definition of the population. The DCR regulation does not specify a reference date or time for the determination of the population of the national fleet but only refers to the vessel register. The regulation also allows the exclusion of vessels, which are in the register but are not licensed. The countries that have defined their population have done such by using different approaches. Several MS have not defined their population by specifying the reference date or time. However in the new DCF framework regulation, these drawbacks will be eliminated.	Considered according to the new DCF
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 12 ON FLEET NON ACTIVE VESSELS In several cases parts of the fleet have been excluded from the collection of all data or for some parameters. The MS argue that it is unclear how to assign non active vessels to a fleet segment covered under the regulation. This is a valid point but this problem will be overcome with the new regulation being effective. The naming of fleet segments is not always in compliance with the regulation. In some cases, even the segmentation itself did not follow the rules. This causes problems when compiling data of several MS, MS are requested to follow the rules in relation to fleet definition.	Considered according to the new DCF
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 13 ON EMPLOYMENT PARAMETERS The definition of parameters remains insufficient in many cases. This	Considered according to the new

relates particularly to employment parameters. Again more attention has to be paid by MS in order allow for comparison and compilation of data.	DCF
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 14 ON ESTIMATION OF POPULATIONS FROM SAMPLES The procedure of estimation of data for the population from samples is in many cases not provided. This is not explicitly requested by the regulation, but would be very beneficial in order to compare and finally harmonise methods and results.	Considered according to the new DCF
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 15 ON PROCESSING INDUSTRY The definition of the population of the processing industry is often missing. In the regulation, there is no standard definition in terms of activity levels, turnover shares or processing levels. However, MS must have applied some approach to define the target population and should therefore provide it.	Considered according to the new DCF
SGECA/SGRN 09-02: 16 ON ECONOMIC DATAS REFERENCE YEAR The reference year is not defined by the regulation EC 1639/2001. However, there seems to be a common understanding that data should refer to the year antecedent to the NP year. There might be reasons why the reference year is two years before. This should be explained by MS.	Considered according to the new DCF

VIII List of acronyms and abbreviations

ACFM	Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management
ACOM	ICES Advisory Committee
BITS	Baltic International Trawl Survey
COM	EU Commision
DCF	Data Collection Framework i.e. Council Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008, Commission Regulation (EC) N° 655/2008 and Commission Decision N° 2010/93/EU)
DCR	Data collection regulation i.e. (“old DCR” 1639/2001, 1584/2004, etc.; “new DCR” Council Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008, Commission Regulation (EC) N° 655/2008 and Commission Decision N° 2008/949/EC)
FGFRI	Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute
IBSFC	International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
NP 2008	Finnish National Programme 2008
NP 2009-2010	Finnish National Programme 2009-2010
NP 2011-2013	Finnish National Programme proposal 2009-2010
SAP	Salmon Action Plan
SD	ICES Sub-division
SF	Statistics Finland
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
STECF-SGRN	STECF Subgroup on Research Need
TR 2009	Finnish Technical Report 2009 (this report)
WGBAST	Baltic Salmon and Trout Working Group
WGBFAS	Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group
WGBIFS	ICES Working Group on Baltic International Fish Surveys

IX Comments, suggestions and reflections

None

X References

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XI Annexes

Annex I. Precision estimates for biological metier-related and stock-related variables

Annex I will be amended by 25 June 2010

ANNEX II. Transect plans of herring acoustic survey

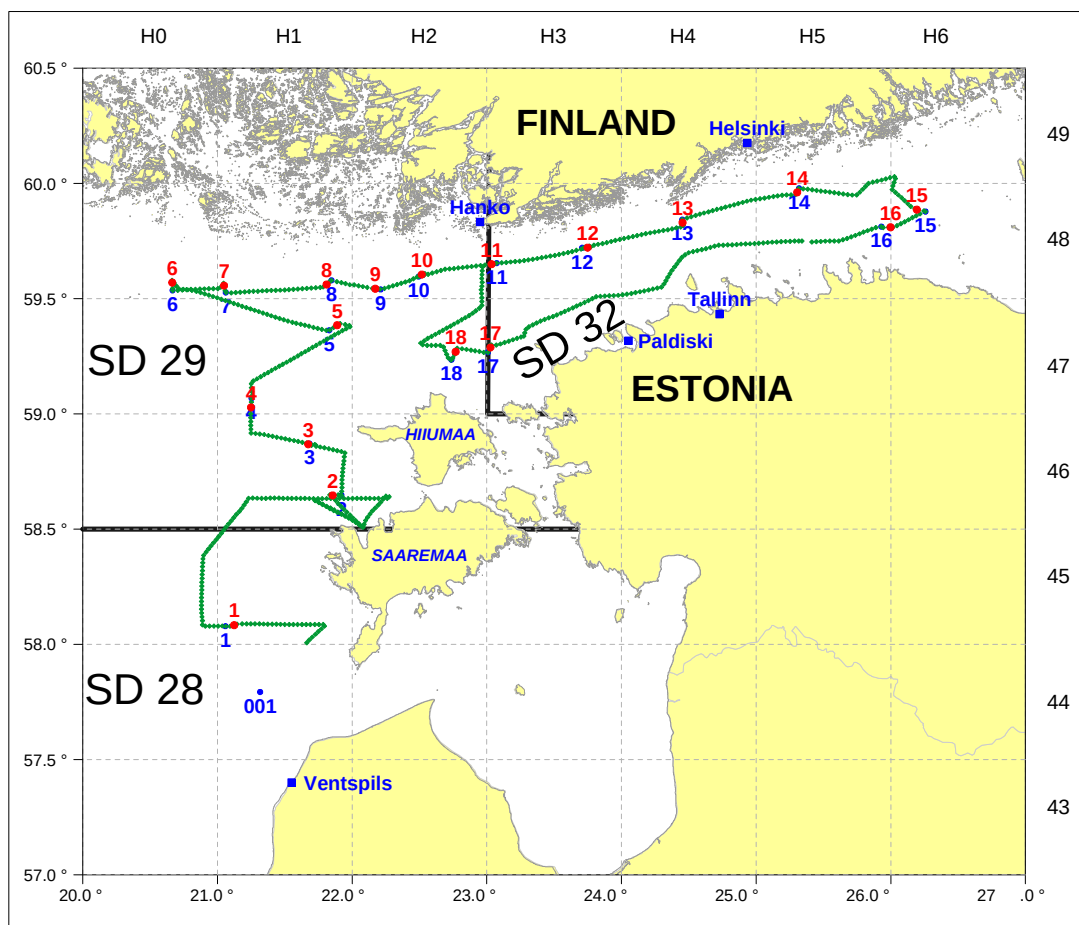


Figure 1. Location of the acoustic transects (green dotted line), the fish control-hauls (red bullets numbered from 1 to 18), and the hydrological stations (blue bullets) inspected in the north-eastern Baltic by the r.v. "Baltica" during the BIAS survey in October 2009 (joint Estonian - Finnish survey).

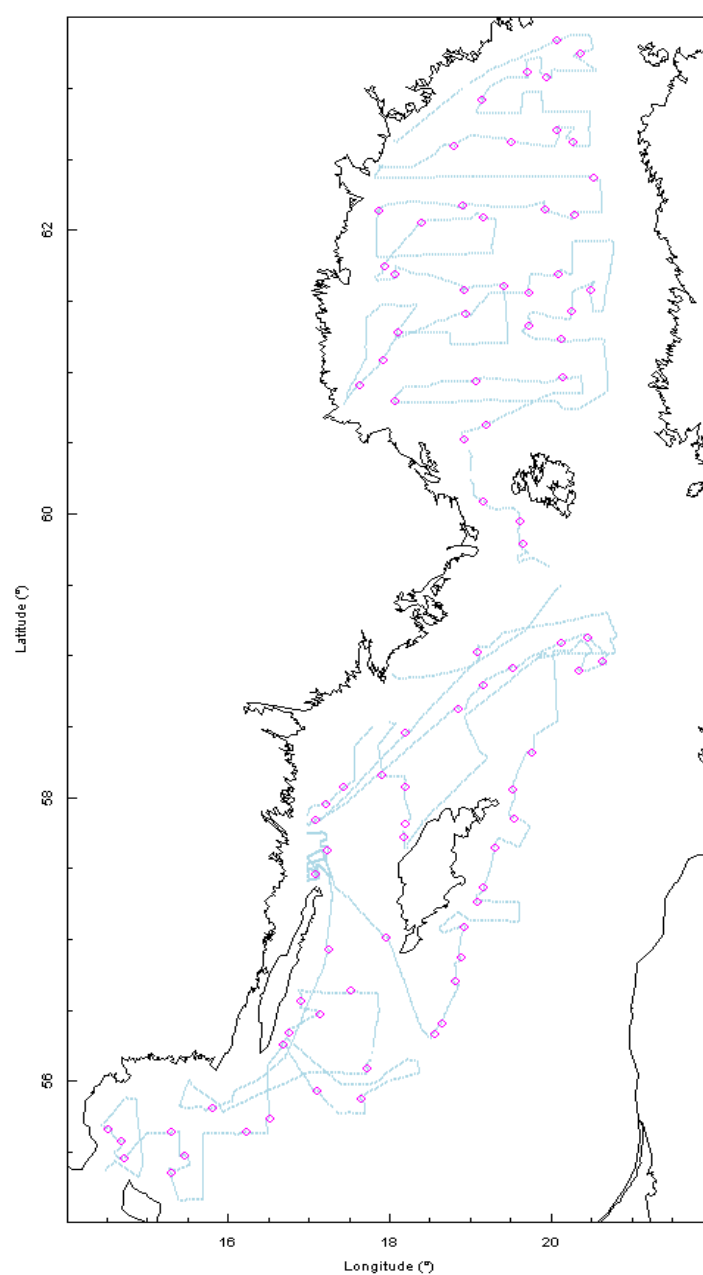


Figure 2. Location of the realised acoustic transects (blue dotted line), and the fish control-hauls (red bullets) inspected in the northern Baltic by the r.v. "Argos" during the BIAS survey in September-October 2009 (joint Swedish - Finnish survey includes the area north from 60°30').