

Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment BIOR, Latvia

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1701

on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast).

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 of 12 July 2016

adopting a multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019.

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1701

laying down rules on the format for the submission of work plans for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) ***/*******

Latvia Annual Report for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

2017-2019

Version [1] – [2017]

Riga, 28.05.2018.

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SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Text Box 1C: Sampling intensity for biological variables

General comment: This box fulfils paragraph 2 point (a)(i)(ii)(iii) of Chapter III, Chapter IV of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2, Article 4 paragraph 1 and Article 8 of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. This box is applicable to the Annual Report.

Member State should provide by Region/RFMO/RFO/IO:

Baltic Sea

1. Evidence of data quality assurance

Evidence of data quality assurance is provided in Table 5A.

2. Deviations from the Work Plan

Biological information on length, age, weigh, sex ratio and sexual maturity were collected for 10 species: *Anguilla anguilla*, *Clupea harengus*, *Gadus morhua*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Platichthys flesus*, *Psetta maxima*, *Salmo salar*, *Salmo trutta*, *Sander lucioperca* and *Sprattus sprattus*.

The achieved levels of length, age, weight, sex ratio and maturity sampling are presented in standard table 1C. For most of fish species, the planned sampling levels have been reached. The sampling has been performed in three ways: onboard sampling, harbour sampling and self-sampling.

Latvia has planned excess sampling, e.g. herring sampling in Gulf of Riga in trap-net fishery that is used as tuning fleet in the assessment. The same reason for sprat in open sea pelagic fishery and cod, flounder in open sea demersal fishery. Excess sampling has been realized on the national expense of Latvia. Data from open sea demersal fishery (target species mainly cod or flounder) are collected by observer during the trips. Data are collected from each haul. Length measurements are made for all species for all catch categories (landings, discards and BMS). Main target species is cod, for other species sampling is made with smaller intensity. Trips in this fishery usually are 4-5 working days in the sea.

In many cases sampling has been done for species which have local importance but have relatively small catches therefore the required sampling level would be deficient, and the excess sampling has taken place due to continuation of the previous sampling practices because the data series are used for analytical assessment purposes. Excess sampling has been realized on the national expense of Latvia.

For European eel and salmon, the total number of, age, sex ratio and maturity sampling were lower than planned, (for example less than 30% for eel). The planned sampling was not reached due to low catches although sampling activity was higher than planned (the total catch for eel in 2017 was less than 0.1t, salmon 3.2t). In total otoliths have been collected from 56 eels of different stages. Additionally, 38 eels where caught in yellow eel monitoring by electrofishing in lakes and rivers. All caught eel were analysed - otoliths and biological data collected, life stage recognized by silvering index. In addition, 99 eels were caught in fyke nets in the river Lilaste and 176 in the river Daugava by contracted commercial fisherman. Fishes were measured, tagged with anchor tags, life stage recognized by silvering index and they have been released.

For salmon the total number of length, age, weight, sex ratio and maturity sampling were lower than planned, (approximately 60%). For salmon the planned sampling was not reached due to low catches although sampling activity was higher than planned (the total catch salmon in 2017 was only 3.2t). Besides for salmon, sea trout, pike-perch sex ratio and maturity sampling are problematical because fishermen prefer to sell these fishes as whole. Maturity stage can be determined by season.

For turbot data are collected mainly from special survey with large mesh gillnets (GNS_DEF_>=157_0_0). The period for commercial direct fishery is very short (usually end of May), not always due to the fishing conditions and weather is possibly to collect turbot data from the commercial fishery. Planned turbot data amount in 2017 were collected as in previous years from the specialized scientific survey.

Biological data collected from commercial fishery in 2017 are uploaded to the Fishframe regional database.

3. Actions to avoid deviations.

For 2018, the sampling scheme will be adopted to take into account fishing activity and to ensure that the planned number of biological variables is achieved.

Eastern Arctic

1. Evidence of data quality assurance.

Evidence of data quality assurance is provided in Table 5A.

2. Deviation from the Work plan.

There is only one Latvian vessel fishing in the Eastern Arctic. The vessel is targeting redfish (*S. mentella*) with pelagic trawl. Last years this vessel changed their fishing grounds and target species. Now this vessel operates in regions where participation of observer on board is not obligatory and is targeted on Atlantic cod. Due to lack of specialists and crew migrations, it is not possible to find solution how to collect biological information. In addition, timing of trips, fishing region and durations it is not possible to predict. All these problems were raised in Latvian Annual report of 2015 and STECF 16-12 expert group recommended to ask derogation for sampling redfish. In next year's Latvia will not collect samples of redfish in North Atlantic.

3. Actions to avoid deviations.

Latvia has a derogation not collect samples of redfish in North Atlantic from 2018.

Other regions (CECAF area Central East Atlantic)

1. Evidence of data quality assurance.

Evidence of data quality assurance is provided in Table 5A.

2. Deviation from the Work plan.

Only a few Latvian vessels are fishing in this area (in 2016-2017 three vessels). All vessels were fishing with pelagic trawl and targeting assemblage of small pelagic fishes. (*Trachurus sp.*, *Scomber japonicus*, *Scomber scombrus* and *Sardinella maderensis*). The discard level is low. Starting with 2012 the sampling of pelagic fisheries is performed based on multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Poland by local observers. The sampling results are presented in the Annual report of the Netherlands.

3. Actions to avoid deviations.

No action necessary

(max. 1000 words per Region/RFMO/RFO/IO)

SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Text Box 1D - Recreational fisheries

General comment: This box fulfills paragraph 2 point (a) (iv) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2, Article 3 and Article 4 paragraph 1 of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box is intended to provide information on the design, implementation and analysis of all components of sampling schemes/ surveys that are listed in Table 1D.

1. Description of the target population

The target population of Recreational Fisheries is self-consumption fishermen and charter boats with anglers who are targeting cod, salmon, sea trout and eel.

2. Type of survey

Information from self-consumption fishery will be collected from logbooks. Data are available from every individual fishing haul by species.

Information from angling will be collected in pilot surveys (Pilot Study 1). Different pilot studies were established for individual fish species. Data from salmon, sea trout and cod angling in the Baltic Sea will be collected from charter boat who is providing angling trips in the sea. The company was chosen taking in to account it previous experience in scientific data collection as well as experience in the business.

Data from eel angling (as well as some addition information about salmon and sea trout) will be collected from questionnaire what is published in www.makskeresanaskarte.lv.

3. Data Quality]

Data collection methodology was published in BIOR homepage and link is provided in Table 5A.

4. Data Analysis and processing

According to the working plan all data from recreational fishery surveys will be analysed in September-December of 2019 all imputation methods will be documented and identified.

(max. 900 words per survey)

SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Pilot Study 1: Relative share of catches of recreational fisheries compared to commercial fisheries

General comment: This box fulfils paragraph 4 of Chapter V of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 and Article 4 paragraph (3) point (a) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box is intended to provide information on the results obtained from the implementation of the pilot study.

1. Aim of pilot study

Aim of pilot study is to estimate the relative share of recreational fisheries in total catches. The main focus will be on 4 species – salmon, sea trout, eel and cod. However, pilot study will provide important information also for estimation of the total catches of several other species like flounder, pike-perch, pike where interest of the recreational fishermen is the highest. It should be highlighted

that in Latvia the recreational fishery could be explicitly divided into two parts. One part are the fishermen which are using commercial gears the number of which is limited. According to Fisheries rules in Latvia these fishermen are obliged to fill logbooks both fishing in the coastal zone and inland waters. Therefore there is exhaustive information on their catches. The samples collected from commercial fishermen could be applied to these catches because the fishing gears are the same. Therefore the pilot study will be devoted to the second part of recreational fishermen who catch the fishes with different angling tools for which the last inquiry was performed in 2007. For later period we have only information that is presented by organisers of the licenced angling in the inner waters that includes also angling on salmon and sea trout.

2. Duration of pilot study

It is planned to start this pilot survey in 2018 when new report of ICES Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys (WGRFS) will be available to take into account all recommendations. Moreover, in 2017-2018 it is planned to organise joint BALTFISH/BSAC workshop on recreational fisheries for cod where one of task is agree on the methodology of accounting for cod in the recreational fishery. Therefore Latvia would like to collect recommendations from the both groups. The survey itself will be performed by a pretender that is specialised on running social inquiries. The pretender will be selected by open procurement procedure. The survey itself will last for 1 year to cover all the fishing seasons which are different due to use of different angling tools and different target species. The results of the survey will be analysed in September-December of 2019.

Methodology and expected outcomes of pilot study

The appropriate methodology will be selected from the reports of Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys (WGRFS). It will include several kinds of inquiries and also visiting of the angling sites. The Pilot study will allow to estimate the volume of catches by anglers for the main target species paying significant attention to salmon, sea trout, eel and cod. Together with the available data on recreational fishery catches with commercial gears it will be possible to judge whether these catches are important that a regular surveys should be performed.

(max 900 words)

3. Brief description of the results obtained (including deviations from planned and justifications as to why if this was not the case).

The results of the surveys, according to accepted working plan, will be analysed in September-December of 2019.

4. Achievement of the original expected outcomes of pilot study and justification if this was not the case.

Pilot surveys are in the progress and according to the plan was started in 2017.

5. Incorporation of results from pilot study into regular sampling by the Member State.

The results and it possible incorporation into regular sampling will be analysed in 2019.

(max 900 words)

SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Text Box 1E: Anadromous and catadromous species data collection in fresh water

General comment: This box fulfills paragraph 2 points (b) and (c) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report.

1. Method selected for collecting data.

The wild salmon population in the river Salaca has been monitored by smolt trapping since 1964 and by parr electrofishing since 1993. The Salaca is regarded as salmon index river in the Eastern Baltic. Smolt trap in the river Salaca is usually operated from the end of April till 3rd decade of May at least 3 weeks annually, however the sampling period could differ depending from hydro-meteorological conditions. All caught smolts are measured, 400 – 500 tagged by streamer tags and released upstream from the trap for total smolt run (smoltproduction) calculation.

Salmon parr electrofishing is carried out in permanent monitoring sites annually. Part of the sites is fished three times to calculate the parr densities at 100 m² of habitat. All caught salmon parr are measured. Electrofishing is carried out regarding standard LVS EN 14011:2003 established on the basis of CEN standard.

Part of eel samples in freshwater are collected by commercial fishermen using trap net (side arm 50 m, mesh size 30 mm in the cod end) near by the river Daugava mouth, by fyke nets 0,5 km upstream from the river Daugava mouth and by trap net closing the lake Lilaste outlet.

The set of 4 small mesh size (8 – 10 mm from knot to knot) fyke-nets used in the lower part of the largest Latvian river Daugava to catch also undersized young yellow eel. Trap net with side arms closing the lake Lilaste outlet (mesh sizes 20- 14 mm) is used to catch yellow eel migrating from the lake to the Gulf of Riga. Number of days in operation and number of eels caught is registered in the logbook. All caught eels are hold alive in net – cage until sampling procedure. All caught eel from this gear is analysed at harbour, part of them is tagged and released.

Eel samples also were collected with independent methods by electrofishing in the Latvian EMU lakes and rivers by electrofishing.

Electrofishing in the Latvian EMU lakes and rivers is carried out annually in at least 60 sites (accessible for eel), fished area, time in electrofishing and number of eel caught is registered. All caught eel are analysed.

Eel samples in fresh water (N_{min}=100) are collected from commercial fisheries and also by commercial fisheries independent methods (fykeneting and electrofishing). Total length, weight, sex, eye diameter, pectoral fin length are registered and otholits collected. Life stage of eel is recognized by Silvering Index calculated from length, pectoral fin length and eye diameter according to (Durif et al., 2009).

(max 250 words per Area)

2. Were the planned number achieved? Yes/ No

Yes. Generally, planned sampling numbers are achieved, except eel sampling with fyke-netting method in river Daugava. All caught eel were measured, life stages of eel recognized by silvering

index, from all eel otoliths were collected. The planned sampling was not reached due to low catches although sampling activity was higher than planned (the total catch for eel in 2017 was less than 0.1 t).

(max 500 words per Area)

SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Text box 1F: Incidental by-catch of birds, mammals, reptiles and fish

General Comment: This box fulfils paragraph 3 point (a) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box is applicable only for those sections where Member States have reported that they have been carrying out regular sampling. Results and deviations for Pilot studies should be reported under Pilot Study 2.

1. Results

Incidental by-catch of fishes

Open sea demersal fish fishery: from all observed trips 8 fish species were recognized. Four species are included in the Table 1D R1251/2016.

Cod	- 25336 fishes, 233 samples,
Lumpfish	- 1 fish, 1 sample,
Sea scorpion	- 1 fish, 1 sample,
Twaite shad	- 1 fish, 1 sample.

Coastal fishery: from the all observed trips, 21 fish species were recognized. Nine species are included in the Table 1D R1251/2016.

Bleak	- 231 fishes, 3 samples,
Cod	- 5 fishes, 2 samples,
Lumpfish	- 1 fish, 1 sample,
Four-horned sculpin	- 1 fish, 1 sample,
Whitefish	- 87 fishes, 5 samples,
Salmon	- 8 fishes, 5 samples,
Smelt	- 132 fishes, 5 samples,
Trout	- 5 fishes, 3 samples,
Vimba bream	- 29 fishes, 11 samples.

Incidental by-catch of mammals

Incidental by-catch of mammals were observed in one fishery act from the coastal fishery (grey seal in the fishing gear was dead).

2. Deviations from Work Plan

No deviations from the work plan for observing incidental by-catch of birds, mammals, reptiles and fish.

3. Data quality

During the on-board sampling comprehensive sampling of all species is performed. It should be highlighted that in the Baltic Sea most of the metier perform rather clean fishery and the by-catch of

non-target species is low or could be absent at all. The on-board sampling was used for demersal and pelagic fishery, coastal fishery. Data are collected on haul level only. Observers are on the ship deck during the trawl hauling, after each trawl codend is checked. Information about rare specimens is collected from whole catch even in the large catches. In sampling protocol it is possible to indicate the use of escape window type in demersal trawl fishery.

In passive gear fishery number of incidental bycatches is insignificant. Observer protocol allows record such information.

Collected information about incidental by-catches is stored in national database and Fishframe.

(max 900 words)

SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Pilot Study 2: Level of fishing and impact of fisheries on biological resources and marine ecosystem

General comment: This Box fulfills paragraph 3 point (c) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 and Article 4 paragraph (3) point (b) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box is intended to provide information on the results obtained from the implementation of the pilot study.

1. Aim of pilot study

The pilot study is not planned because there are already several monitoring programmes running in which the incidental by-catch of non-intended species is evaluated (see Table 1F in the Table file). The fishing intensity by region could be evaluated from data that are collected by vessel monitoring systems and the data is compiled annually in ICES Working Group on Spatial Fisheries Data (WGSFD 2016) and Latvian data were included as well in Report of the Workshop to evaluate regional benthic pressure and impact indicator(s) from bottom fishing (WKBENTH). Analysis of Latvian EEZ (bottom structure and spatial fishing distribution) was included in evaluation of national Marine Spatial Planning.

2. Duration of pilot study

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of pilot study

(max 900 words)

Brief description of the results obtained (including deviations from planned and justifications as to why if this was not the case).

Pilot study was no planned in the working plan.

4. Achievement of the original expected outcomes of pilot study and justification if this was not the case

Pilot study was no planned in the working plan.

5. Incorporation of results from pilot study into regular sampling by the MS

Pilot study was no planned in the working plan.

(max 900 words)

SECTION 1: BIOLOGICAL DATA

Text Box 1G: List of research surveys at sea

General comment: This box fulfills Chapter IV of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 and Article 7 paragraph (3) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to specify which research surveys at sea set out in Table 10 of the multiannual Union programme will be carried out. Member States shall specify whether the research survey is included in Table 10 of the multiannual Union programme or whether it is an additional survey.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box should provide complementary information on the performance of the surveys, the results and their main use.

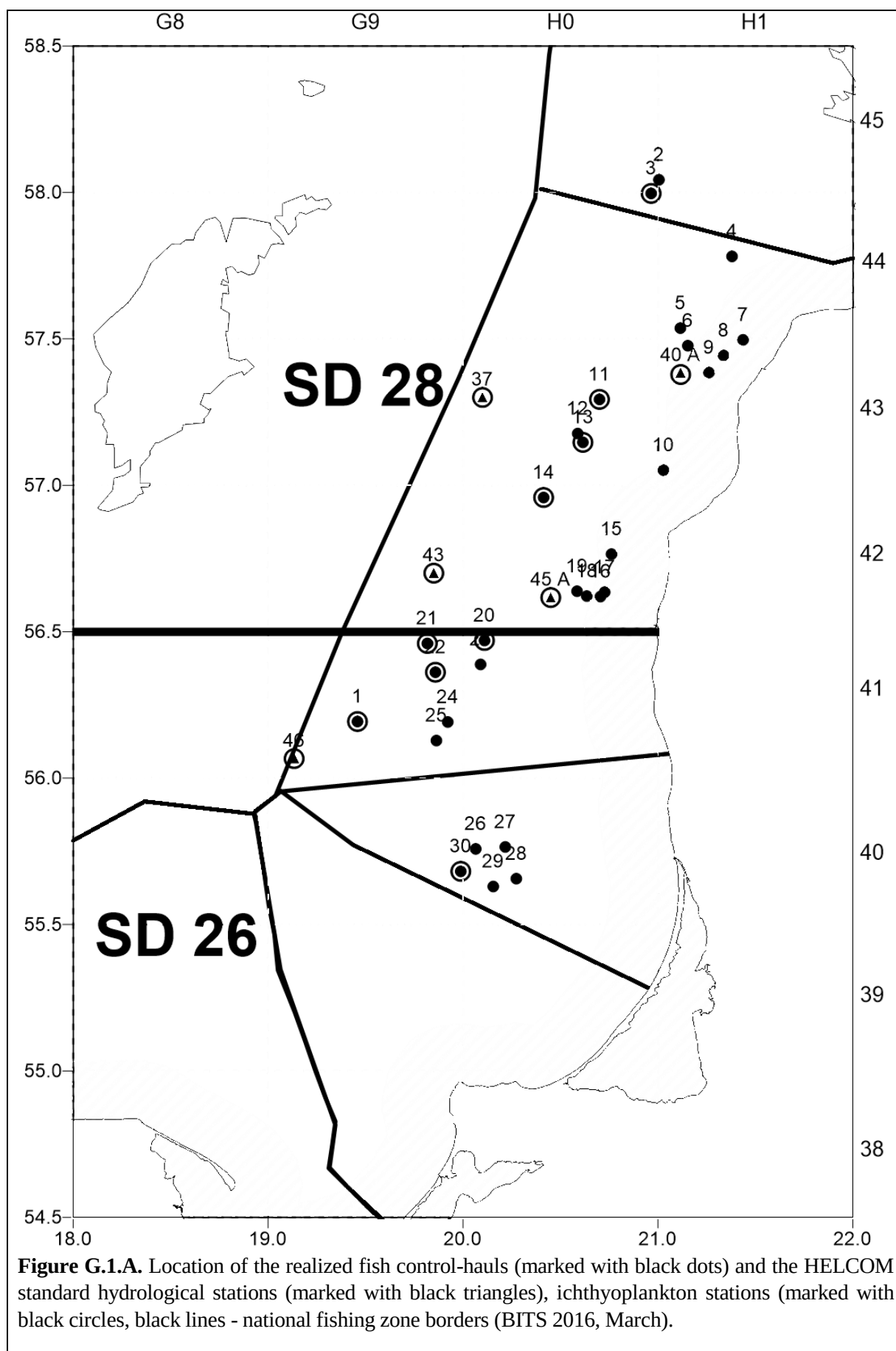
Baltic International Trawl Survey in the first quarter (BITS Q1).

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey will be conducted in February-March on the rented research vessel. The primary purpose of the survey is to produce abundance estimates and indices of recruitment for cod and flounder in the Eastern Baltic (Sub-divisions 25-32) that are necessary for tuning VPA and prediction of the recruitment. Other species are also intensively investigated to support ecosystem analyses.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map).

The data were collected according to “Manual for the Baltic International Trawl Survey” (WGBIFS, 2014, <http://tinyurl.com/pq2f9ok>). The trawling is performed during daylight. The trawling is performed using standard scientific trawl TV-3#-930. Vessel speed during trawling should be 3.0 knots, each control-haul duration should be 30 minutes however, at location with very dense fish shoals catching will be reduced to 15 minutes. Trawling is performed accordingly to the ICES WGBIFS determined catch-stations scheme (Fig.G.1.A.). Each consecutive fish catch should be sorted out by species in separate boxes or baskets and weighted. The sorted and weighed fish are then used for the length, age and maturity sampling and measurements. Biological sampling procedure and length measurements are performed for cod and flounder. Length distribution should be recorded for all other species from every trawl-station, but with less intensity. For all species the total number and weight is recorded. Sampling level for all species is stratified on the ICES Sub-division level. The age determination is performed in national laboratory. During the survey also the basic hydrological parameters (temperature, salinity, oxygen content) will be measured, collection of ichthyoplankton samples and samples of stomachs of cod will be collected as well as information about marine litter. Data collection from the echo-integration conducted during the haul time and between hauls locations will be performed.



3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey.

The survey is conducted in collaboration with national institutes from Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Sweden within the framework of ICES. Survey is part of the Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS), which is coordinated by the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS].

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used.

From 2006 Latvian BITS survey is carried out on the rented Polish r.v. "Baltica". Cooperation is based on the agreement between the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR" in Riga and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) in Gdynia. No cost sharing agreement is used.

5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.

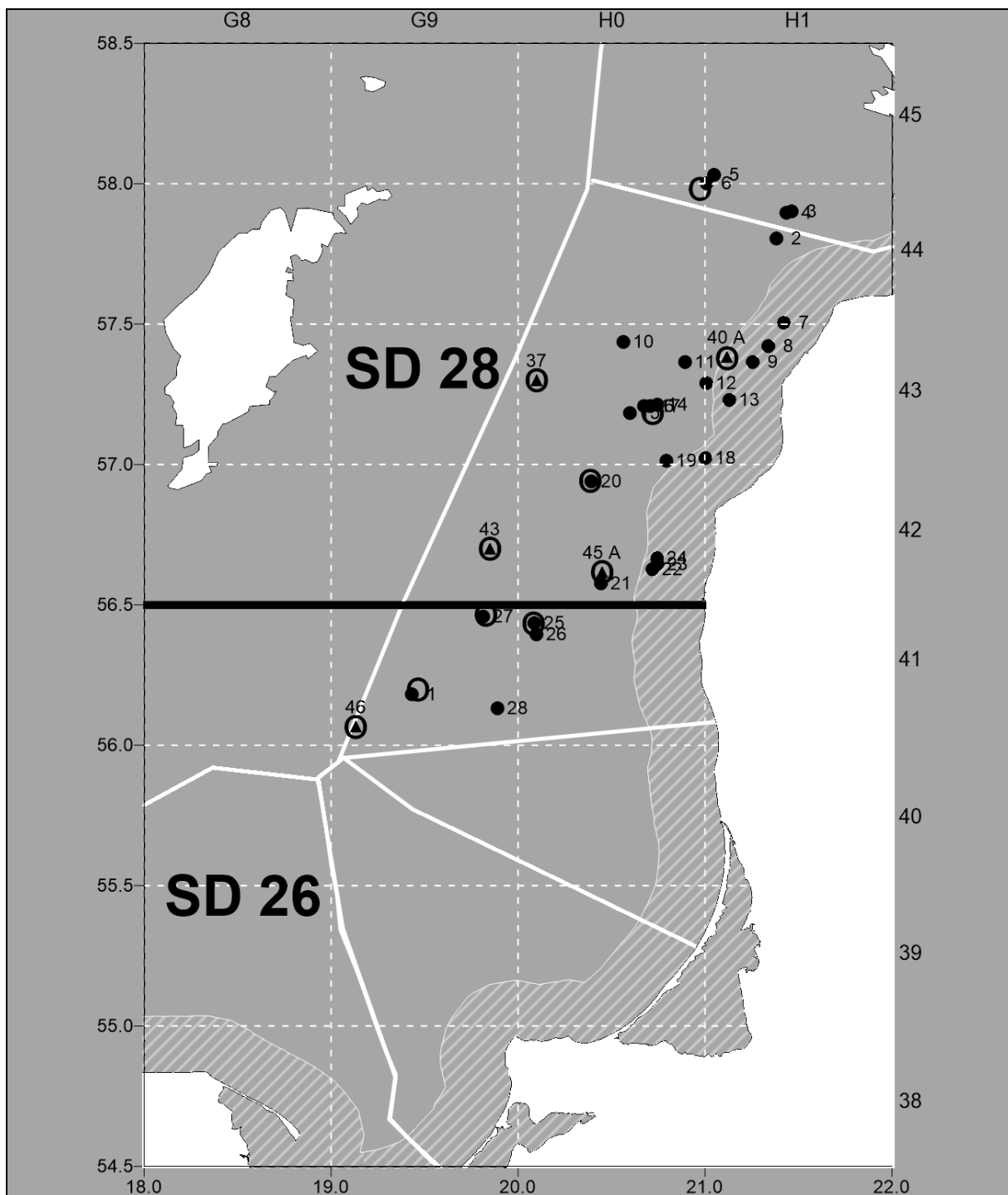


Figure G.1. Location of the realized fish control-hauls (marked with black dots) and the HELCOM standard hydrological stations (marked with black triangles), ichthyoplankton stations (marked with black circles, white lines - national fishing zone borders (BITS 2017, March).

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

The ICES Working Group on Baltic International Fish Survey (WGBIFS) latest meeting report can be found at:

[http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/
S/
WGBIFS%202017.pdf](http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/WGBIFS%202017.pdf).

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

Obtained data (e.g. cpue indices, abundance estimates) are used for the assessment of Baltic cod and flounder stocks during the annual ICES Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS).

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

(max 450 words per survey)

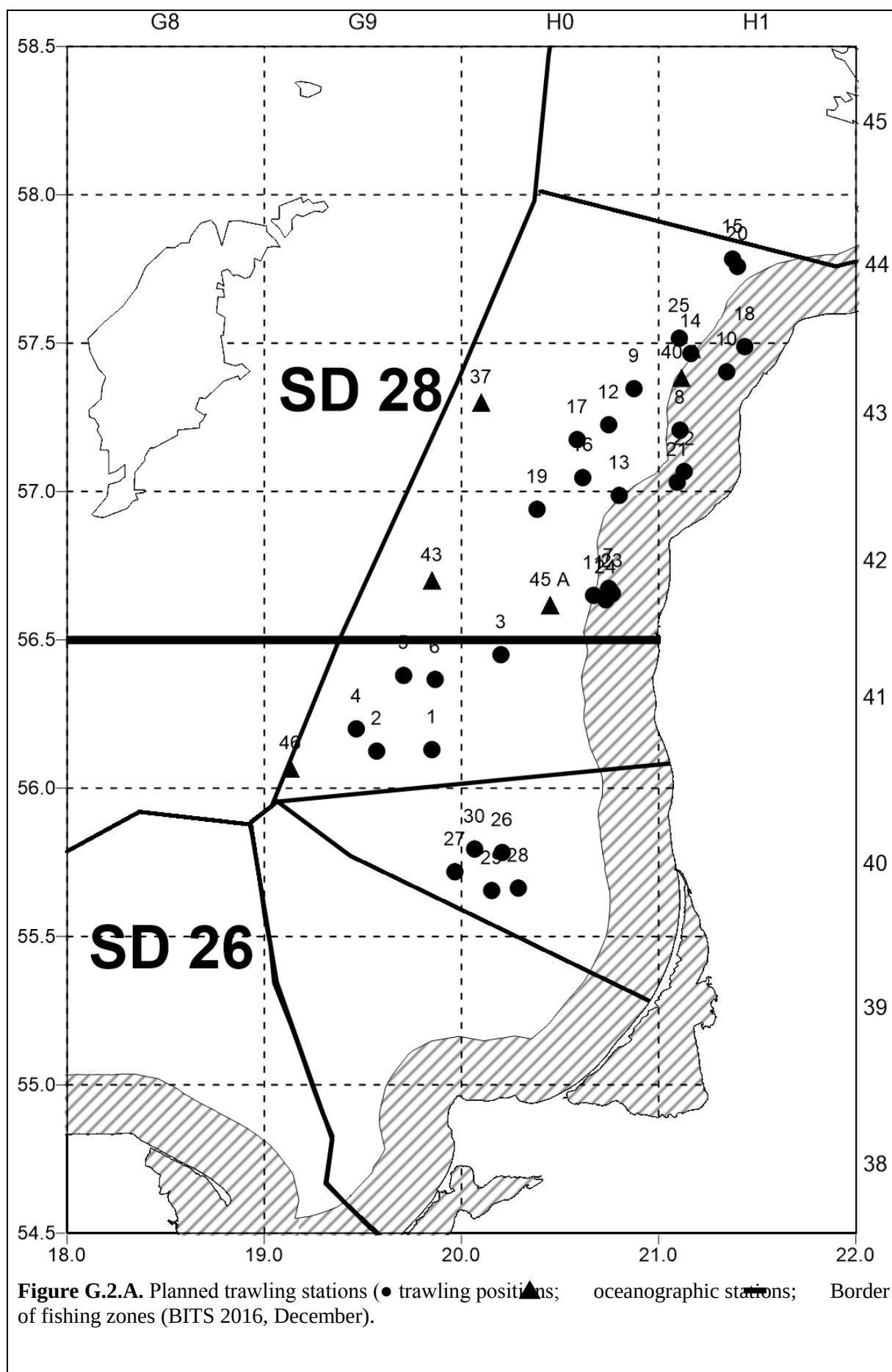
Baltic International Trawl Survey in the fourth quarter (BITS Q4)

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey will be conducted in November-December on the rented research vessel. The primary purpose of the survey is to produce abundance estimates and indices of recruitment for cod and flounder in the Eastern Baltic (Sub-divisions 25-32) that are necessary for tuning VPA and prediction of the recruitment. Other species are also intensively investigated to support ecosystem analyses.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

The data will be collected according to “Manual for the Baltic International Trawl Survey” (WGBIFS, 2017, [http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/ICES%20Survey%20Protocols%20\(SISP\)
/2017/SISP7%20BITS%202017.pdf](http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/ICES%20Survey%20Protocols%20(SISP)/2017/SISP7%20BITS%202017.pdf)) with the same methodology used in Baltic International Trawl Survey in the first quarter (BITS Q1).



3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

The survey is conducted in collaboration with national institutes from Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Sweden within the framework of ICES. Survey is part of the Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS), which is coordinated by the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS].

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

From 2006 Latvian BITS survey is carried out on the rented Polish r.v. “Baltica”. Cooperation is based on the agreement between the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” in Riga and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) in Gdynia. No cost sharing agreement is used.

5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.

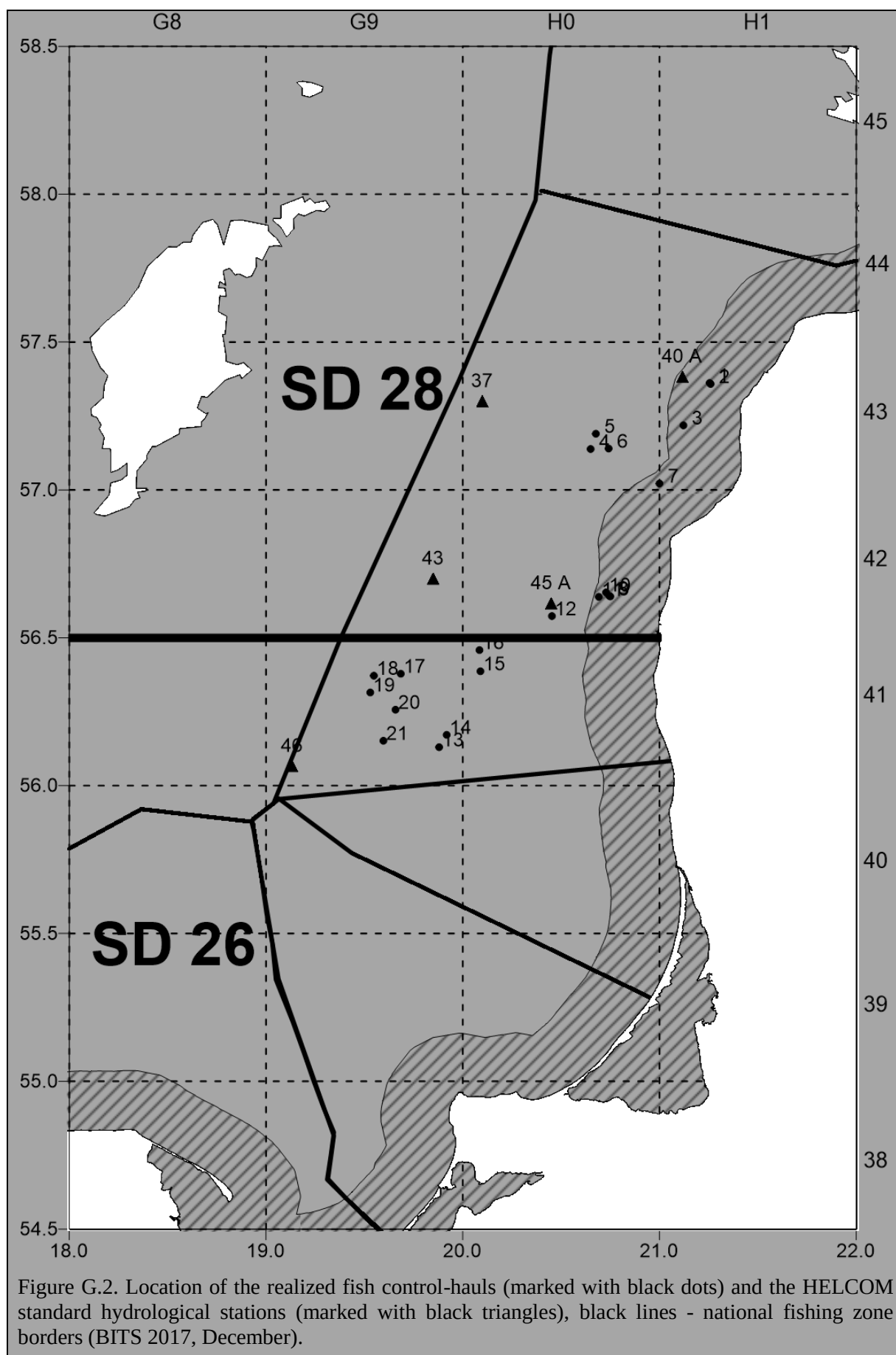


Figure G.2. Location of the realized fish control-hauls (marked with black dots) and the HELCOM standard hydrological stations (marked with black triangles), black lines - national fishing zone borders (BITS 2017, December).

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

The ICES Working Group on Baltic International Fish Survey (WGBIFS) latest meeting report can be found at:

<http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/>

WGBIFS%202017.pdf

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

Obtained data (e.g. cpue indices, abundance estimates) are used for the assessment of Baltic cod and flounder stocks during the annual ICES Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS).

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

Bad weather conditions negatively influenced the realization of all planned control-hauls, 4 working days during the survey were lost.

The number of valid hauls was considered by last WGBIFS meeting as appropriate for tuning series and it is recommended that the data is used for the assessment of Baltic and Kattegat cod and flatfish stocks.

(max 450 words per survey)

Baltic International Acoustic Survey in autumn (BIAS)

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey will be performed in September-October. The survey will be performed on a rented research vessel. The main aims of the survey are to obtain abundance estimates of herring and sprat which are used for tuning VPA for the assessment of herring in Sub-divisions 25-29, +32 and of sprat in Sub-divisions 22-32 of the Baltic Sea. The survey will be carried out in Sub-divisions 26 and 28. The survey will be performed also in the 12 nm zone of Latvian economic zone. The survey track is standard.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

The data will be collected according to Manual for the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS) Version 1.02. (WGBIFS, 2014, Gdynia, Poland). From each trawl the length, weight, sex and maturity of herring and sprat are determined and otoliths for age determination are taken. During the survey also the basic hydrological parameters (temperature, salinity, oxygen content) will be measured, and samples of zooplankton will be collected. Collected data are stored in ICES databases BAD1, as well as in the local database BIODATA.

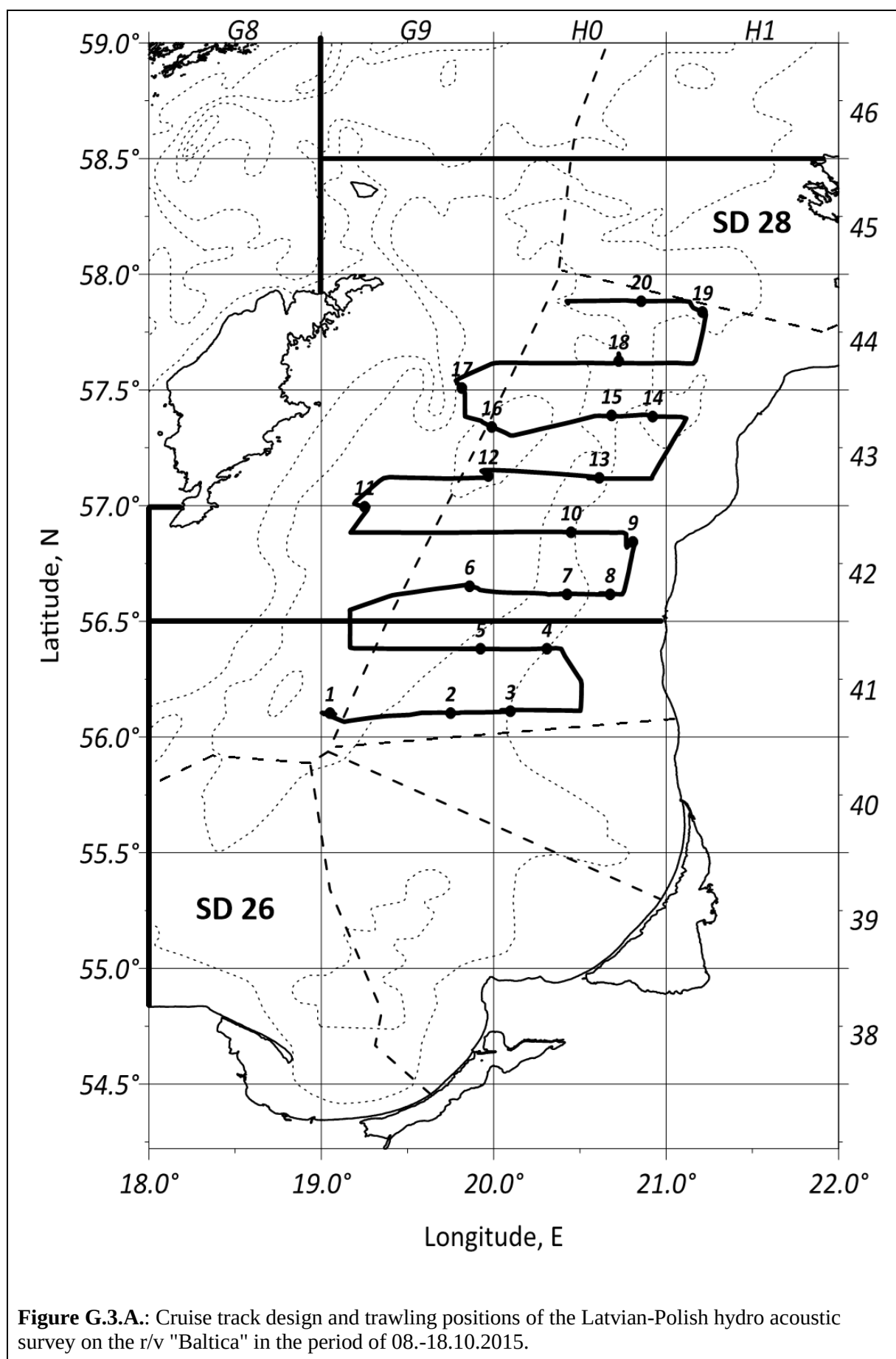


Figure G.3.A.: Cruise track design and trawling positions of the Latvian-Polish hydro acoustic survey on the r/v "Baltica" in the period of 08.-18.10.2015.

3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

The survey is conducted in collaboration with national institutes from Finland, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden within the framework of ICES. Survey is part of the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS), which is coordinated by the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS].

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

From 2005 Latvian BIAS survey is carried out on the rented Polish r.v. “Baltica”. Cooperation is based on the agreement between the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” in Riga and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) in Gdynia. No cost sharing agreement is used.

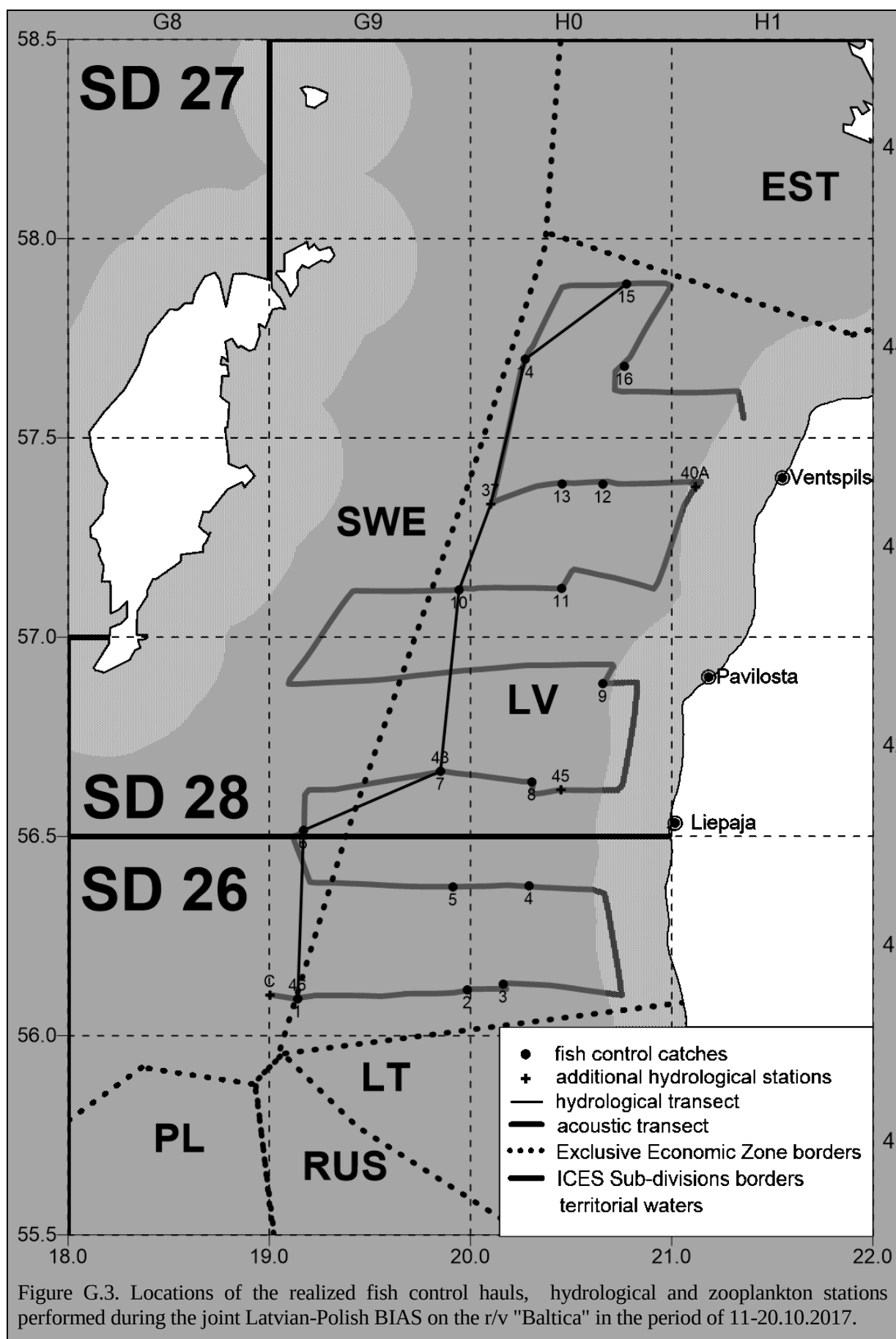
5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.



7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

The ICES Working Group on Baltic International Fish Survey (WGBIFS) latest meeting report can be found at:

<http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/WGBIFS%202017.pdf>

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

The main aims of the survey are to obtain abundance estimates of sprat and herring which are used for tuning VPA in Sub-divisions 22-32 of the Baltic Sea. The survey is suitable for the calculation of the ecosystem indicators 1 to 4.

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

The tasks of the survey concerning the route of the survey and the number of hauls performed during survey was lower than planned due to bad weather conditions during survey.

(max 450 words per survey)

Gulf of Riga Acoustic Herring Survey – GRAHS.

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey will be performed in July-August on a rented fishing vessel in the Gulf of Riga (Sub-division 28.1). The main aim of the survey is to obtain abundance estimates of the Gulf of Riga herring, which are used for tuning VPA for the assessment of the Gulf of Riga herring (separate assessment unit).

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

The data will be collected according to Manual for the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS) Version 1.02 (WGBIFS, 2014, Gdynia, Poland). From each trawl the length, weight, sex and maturity of herring and otoliths for age determination are taken. During the survey also the basic hydrological parameters (temperature, salinity, oxygen content) are measured, and the samples of zooplankton will be collected. Collected data are stored in national database BIODATA.

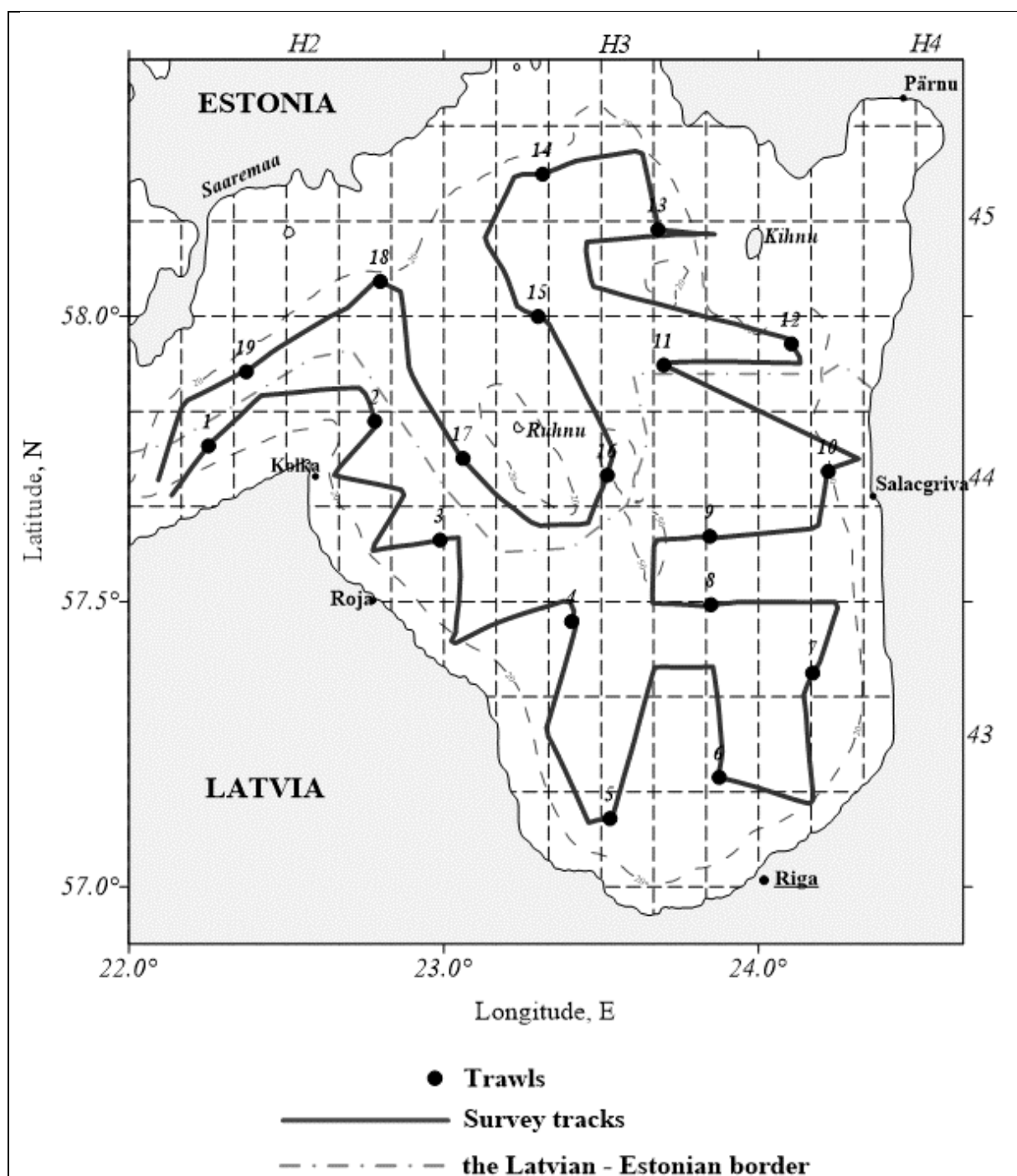


Figure G.4.A.: Cruise track design and trawling positions of the Latvian-Estonian hydro acoustic survey in the Gulf of Riga. Hydrological stations are made in the positions of trawling.

3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

The survey is conducted in collaboration with national institute from Estonia within the framework of ICES. Survey is coordinated by the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS].

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

Survey is carried out on the rented fishing vessel. Cooperation is based on the agreement between the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR" in Riga and Latvian commercial fishing company selected at procurement procedure. During the survey Latvian scientists work

together with Estonian colleagues from Estonian Marine Institute (EMI). No cost sharing agreement is used.

5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.

Position of trawls and survey tracks of joint Latvian-Estonian hidroacoustic survey in the Gulf of Riga

(Latvian - Estonian hidroacoustic survey, F/V "Ulrika", 26.07. - 04.08.2017)

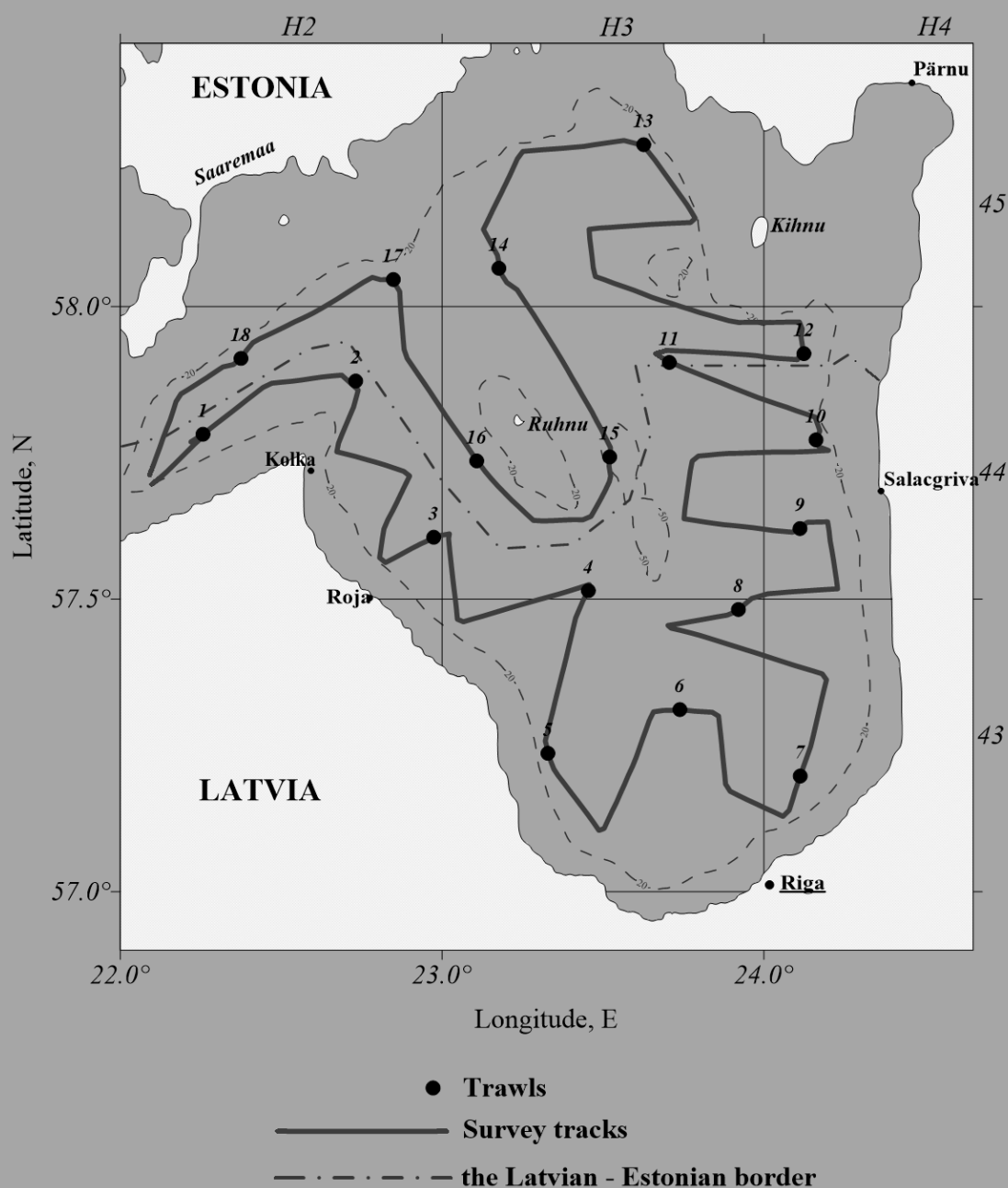


Figure G.4. Locations of the realized fish control hauls, hydrological, and zooplankton stations performed during the joint Latvian-Estonian GRAHS on the f/v "Ulrika" in the period of 26.07-04.08.2017.

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

The ICES Working Group on Baltic International Fish Survey (WGBIFS) latest meeting report can be found at:

[http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/
WGBIFS%202017.pdf](http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/WGBIFS%202017.pdf)

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

The main aim of the survey is to obtain abundance estimates of herring in the Gulf of Riga which are used for tuning VPA for the assessment of the Gulf of Riga herring (separate assessment unit). The survey is suitable for the calculation of the ecosystem indicators 1 to 3.

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

(max 450 words per survey)

Sprat Acoustic Survey – SPRAS.

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey will be performed in May on rented research vessel or a rented trawler. The main aim of the survey is to obtain abundance estimates for sprat. The data are used for the assessment of sprat since 2004. Besides, this survey can give reliable estimates of sprat maturity not available from other sources. Collected data are stored in ICES databases BAD1, as well as in the local database BIODATA.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

The data will be collected according to Manual for the Baltic International Acoustic Survey (BIAS) Version 1.02 (WGBIFS, 2014, Gdynia, Poland). From each trawl the length, weight, sex and maturity of herring and sprat are determined and otoliths for age determination are taken. During the survey, also the basic hydrological parameters (temperature, salinity, oxygen content) will be measured, and samples of zooplankton and ichthyoplankton will be collected. The survey track is standard.

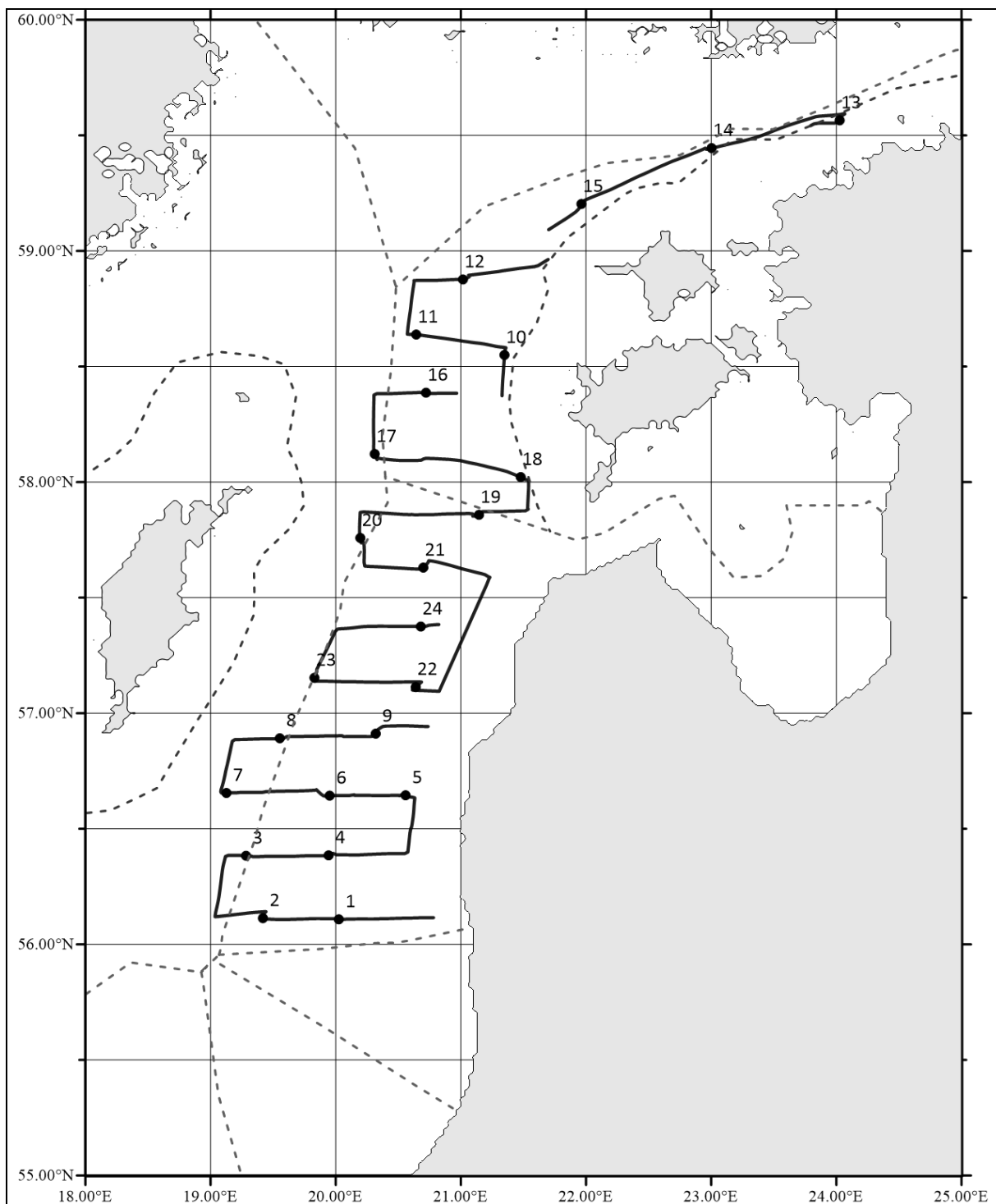


Figure G.5.A. Cruise track design and hauls of the Latvian-Estonian joint Baltic Acoustic Spring Survey

on the f/v "Ulrika", 12-24.05.2015.

3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

The survey is conducted in collaboration with national institutes from Germany, Estonia and Lithuania within the framework of ICES. Survey is part of the Baltic International Sprat Acoustic Survey (SPRAS), which is coordinated by the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group [WGBIFS].

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

The survey is carried out on the rented Polish r.v. “Baltica”. Cooperation is based on the agreement between the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” in Riga and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) in Gdynia. No cost sharing agreement is used.

5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.

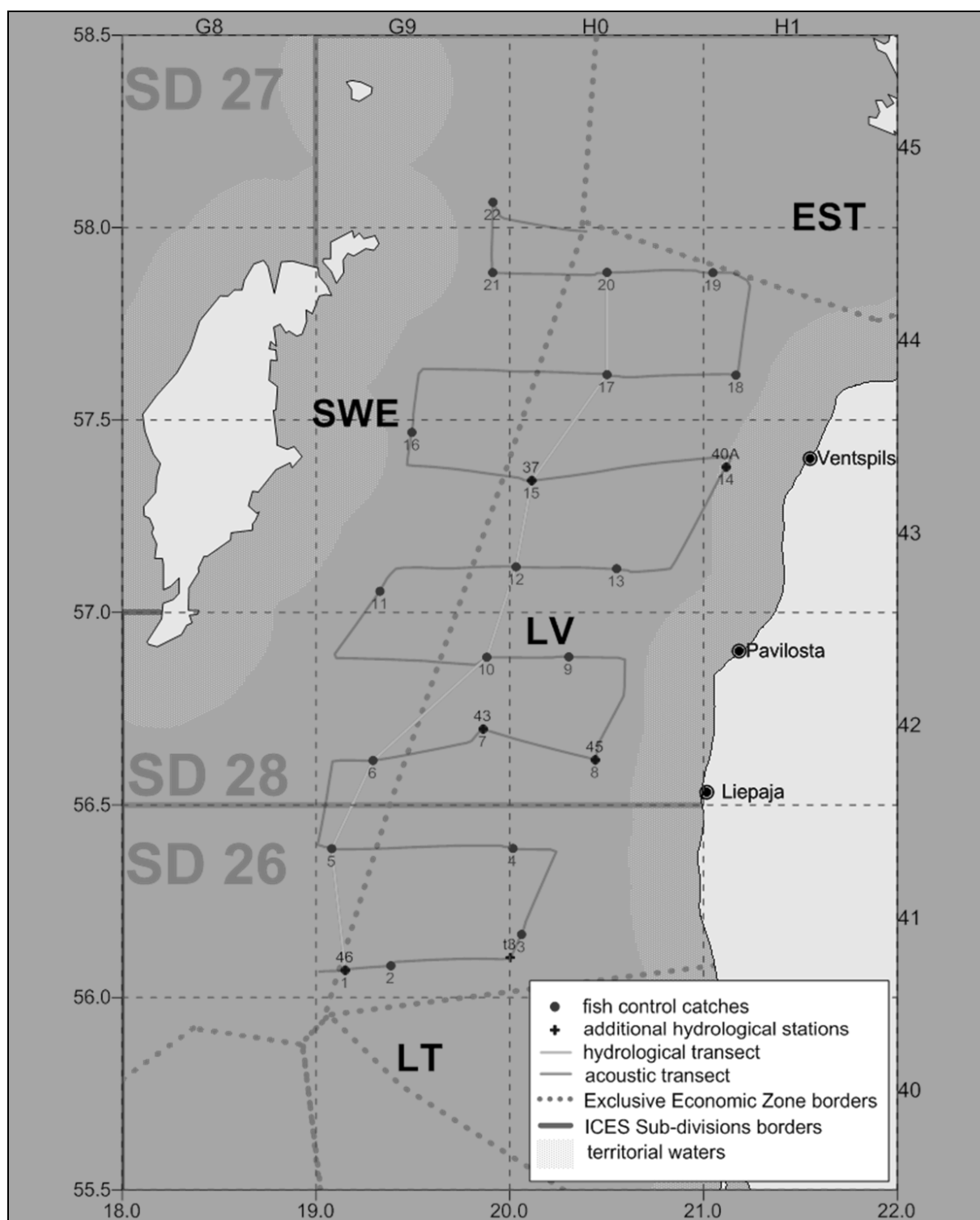


Figure G.5. Locations of the realized fish control hauls, hydrological, ichthyoplankton and zooplankton stations performed during the joint Latvian-Polish BASS on the r/v "Baltica" in the period of 18-25.05.2017.

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

The ICES Working Group on Baltic International Fish Survey (WGBIFS) latest meeting report can be found by,

<http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGIEOM/2017/WGBIFS/WGBIFS%202017.pdf>

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

The main aims of the survey are to obtain abundance estimates of sprat which are used for tuning VPA in Sub-divisions 22-32 of the Baltic Sea. The survey is suitable for the calculation of the ecosystem indicators 1 to 4.

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

(max 450 words per survey)

Latvian Flatfishes Juvenile Survey

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey will be performed from May to October in the coastal zone of the Baltic Sea. The main aim of the survey is to obtain abundance estimates of flatfish (flounder and turbot) juveniles.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

The data will be collected with beach seine (mesh size in cod-end 8 mm) from the coast in surf zone of the Baltic sea on the main nursery area of flatfishes. The sampling area is approximately 4000 m², the distance from the coastline is approximately 130 m. In every sampling area (Kolka - Gulf of Riga, Kolka – Irbe Strait, Lielirbe, Jurmalciens, Pape – Baltic Sea) 5 samples will be collected. Other species (fish and nektobenthos) are also intensively investigated to support ecosystem analyses. During the survey the basic hydrological parameters (temperature, salinity, and oxygen content) will be measured.



Fig.G.6.A. Sampling design for the Latvian flatfishes juvenile survey. ★ – sampling places.

3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

This is not an internationally coordinated survey however it is planned to use the results of the survey in the assessment of flounder in the Central Baltic.

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

No cost sharing agreement is used.

5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.

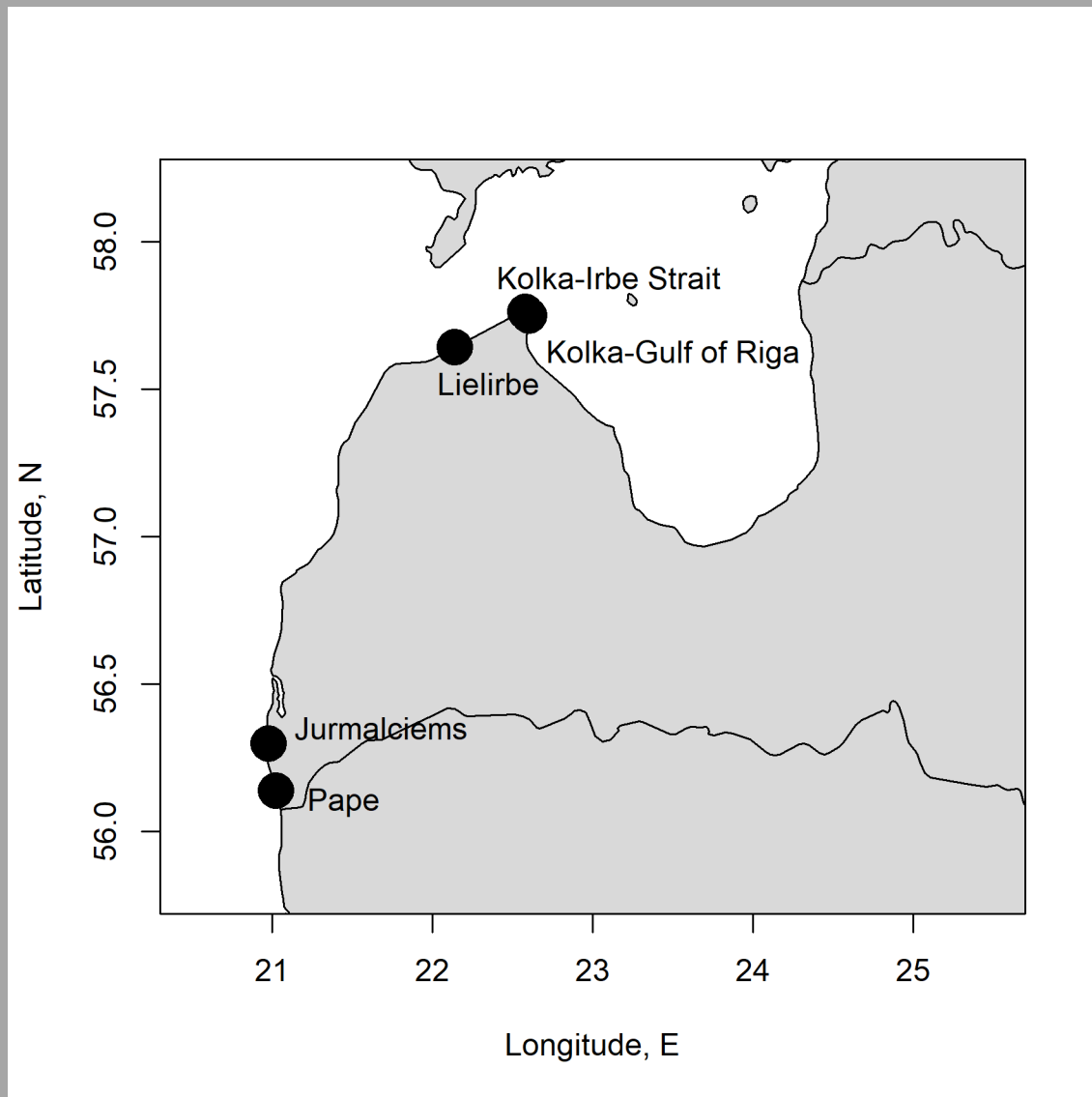


Fig.G.6. Sampling places for the Latvian flatfishes juvenile survey. ● – sampling places.

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

Information about survey is included in monthly report for Ministry of Agriculture based on National agreement as well as in annual scientific overview. More detailed information about Latvian Flatfishes Juvenile Survey is included in institute annual report.

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

The main aim of the survey is to obtain abundance estimates of flatfish (flounder and turbot) juveniles. This is not an internationally coordinated survey however it is planned to use the results of the survey in the assessment of flounder in the Central Baltic.

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

(max 450 words per survey)

Gulf of Riga Demersal Fish survey.

1. Objectives of the survey

The survey is performed three times a year - in May, August and October on a rented MRTK type fishing trawler in the Gulf of Riga (Sub-division 28.1). The primary purpose of the survey is to produce abundance estimates of benthic fish species and get hydrological (temperature, salinity, oxygen content) and zooplankton samples in the trawling stations during the survey. The observations of the survey provide data on biological diversity changes in the Gulf of Riga.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

Stations cover the Gulf of Riga area from 8 m coastal zone till 56 m depth in locations that are selected on appropriate soil basis for benthic trawling. Trawling is performed with a special demersal trawl 18 m wide and 1.5 m high when in action and with 17 mm - 6 mm mesh size. Vessel speed during trawling is 3.0 knots, hauls duration is 30 minutes however, at location with very dense fish shoals catching will be reduced to 15 minutes. All benthic fishes and invertebrates are separated in the catch and analysed.

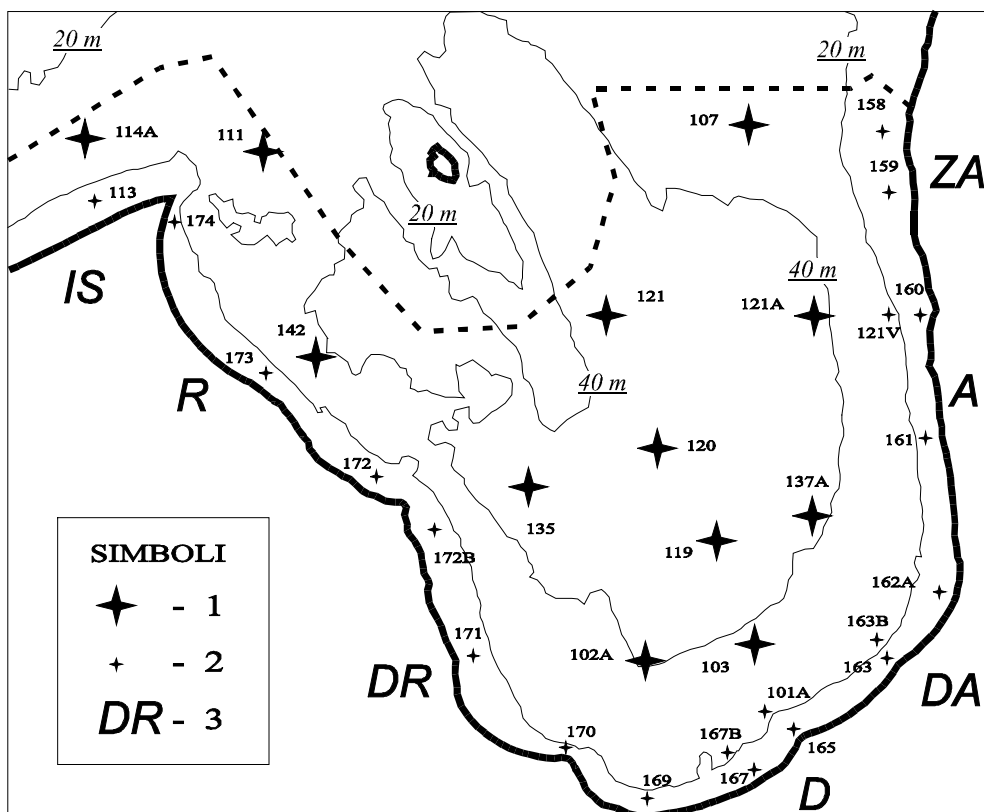


Fig.G.7.A. Benthic trawl, Hydrological and zooplankton station map in the Gulf of Riga

3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

This is not an internationally coordinated survey.

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

No cost sharing agreement is used.

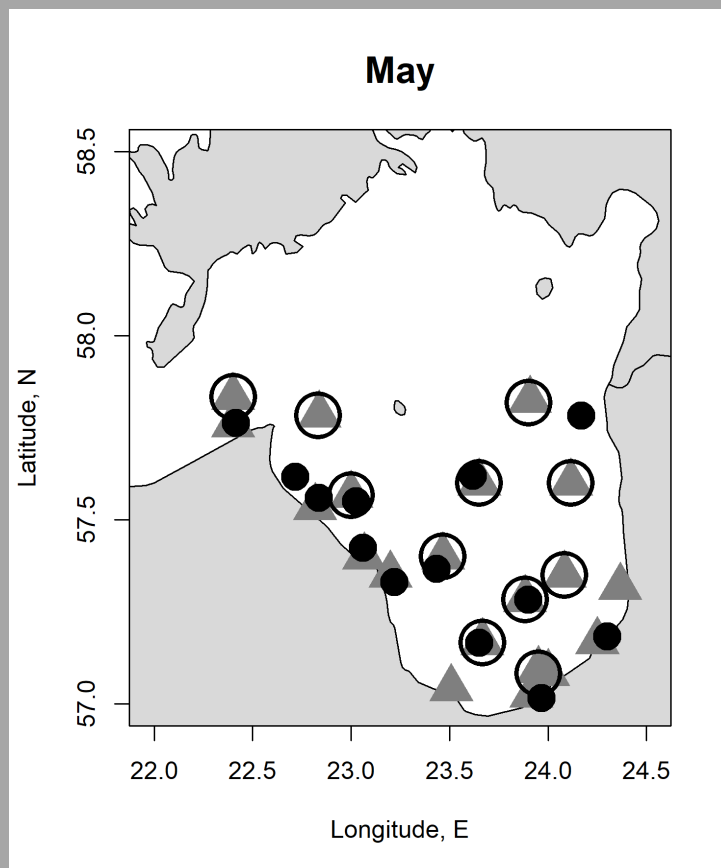
5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.



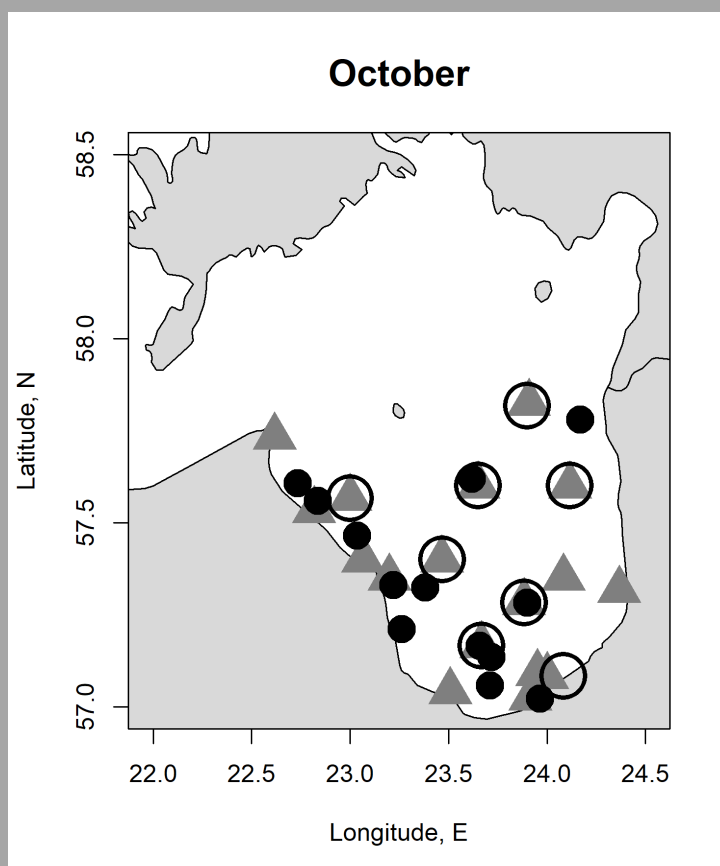
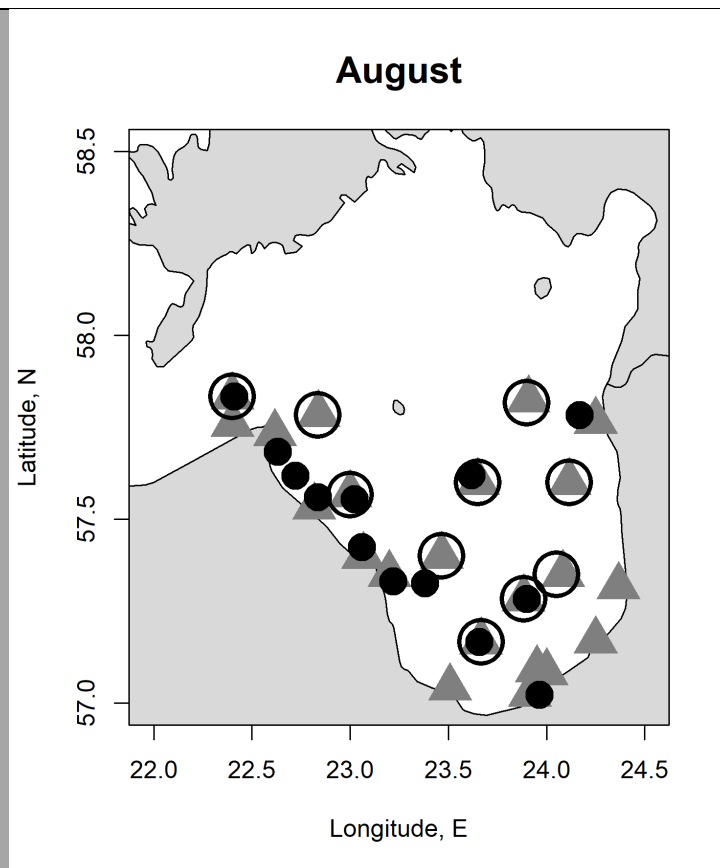


Figure G.7. Realized stations during **Gulf of Riga Demersal Fish surveys** (● trawling positions; ▲ oceanographic stations; ○ plankton stations (May, August, October 2017)).

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

Information about survey is included in monthly report for Ministry of Agriculture based on National agreement as well as in annual scientific overview. More detailed information about Gulf of Riga Demersal Fish survey is included in institute annual report.

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

The primary purpose of the survey is to produce abundance estimates of benthic fish species and get hydrological (temperature, salinity, oxygen content) and zooplankton samples in the trawling stations during the survey. The observations of the survey provide data on biological diversity changes in the Gulf of Riga.

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

(max 450 words per survey)

Coastal fish monitoring.

1. Objectives of the survey

The objective of survey is to monitor changes in the fish communities in relation to the impact of eutrophication, habitat alteration, climate change, toxic substances, alien species and fishery. The results of the survey are used for the management of fishery in the Latvian coastal zone.

2. Description of the methods used in the survey. For mandatory surveys, link to the manuals. Include a graphical representation (map)

Data are collected in Latvian coastal area at 3-5 m depth using Nordic coastal multi-mesh gillnets (Guidelines for Coastal Fish Monitoring Sampling Methods of HELCOM; [http://helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/Guidelines for Coastal fish Monitoring of HELCOM.pdf](http://helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/Guidelines%20for%20Coastal%20fish%20Monitoring%20of%20HELCOM.pdf)). These nets are 45 m long and made up of 9 parts which have different mesh sizes (from 10 to 60 mm). Monitoring will be performed one (Jurkalne, Daugavgriva) and two (Pape) times per year, but in the rest of areas – once (Salacgriva) and twice (Liepaja, Plienciems) per month, from March till November. Length and weight of all fishes is measured and other information like weather conditions, depth, water temperature, salinity and Secchi depth are recorded.

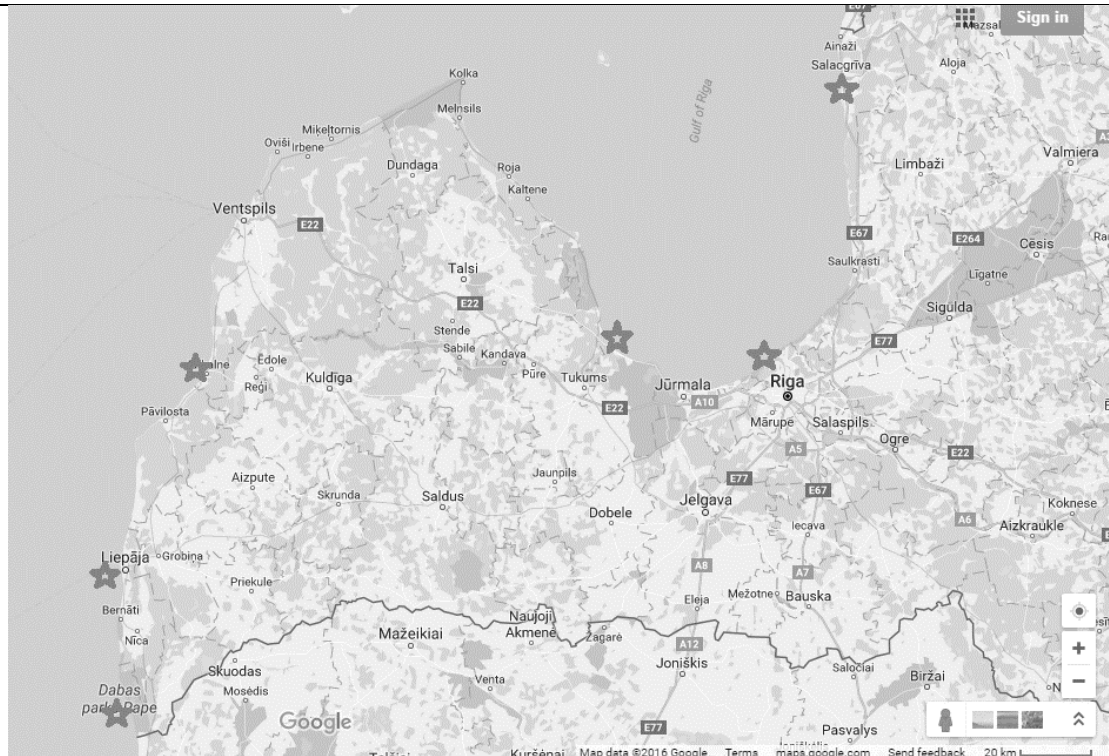


Fig.G.8.A. Sampling places for the Latvian coastal fish monitoring. ★ – sampling places.

3. For internationally coordinated surveys, describe the participating Member States/ vessels and the relevant international group in charge of planning the survey

This is not an internationally coordinated survey however it is performed by methodology of the HELCOM and it is performed also in other countries of the Baltic Sea.

4. Where applicable, describe the international task-sharing (physical and/or financial) and the cost-sharing agreement used

No cost sharing agreement is used.

5. Explain where thresholds apply

No thresholds were applied for this survey.

(max. 450 words per survey)

6. Graphical representation (map) showing the positions (locations) of the realized samples.

Member State shall provide maps presenting the spatial distribution of the main sampling types obtained during the survey.

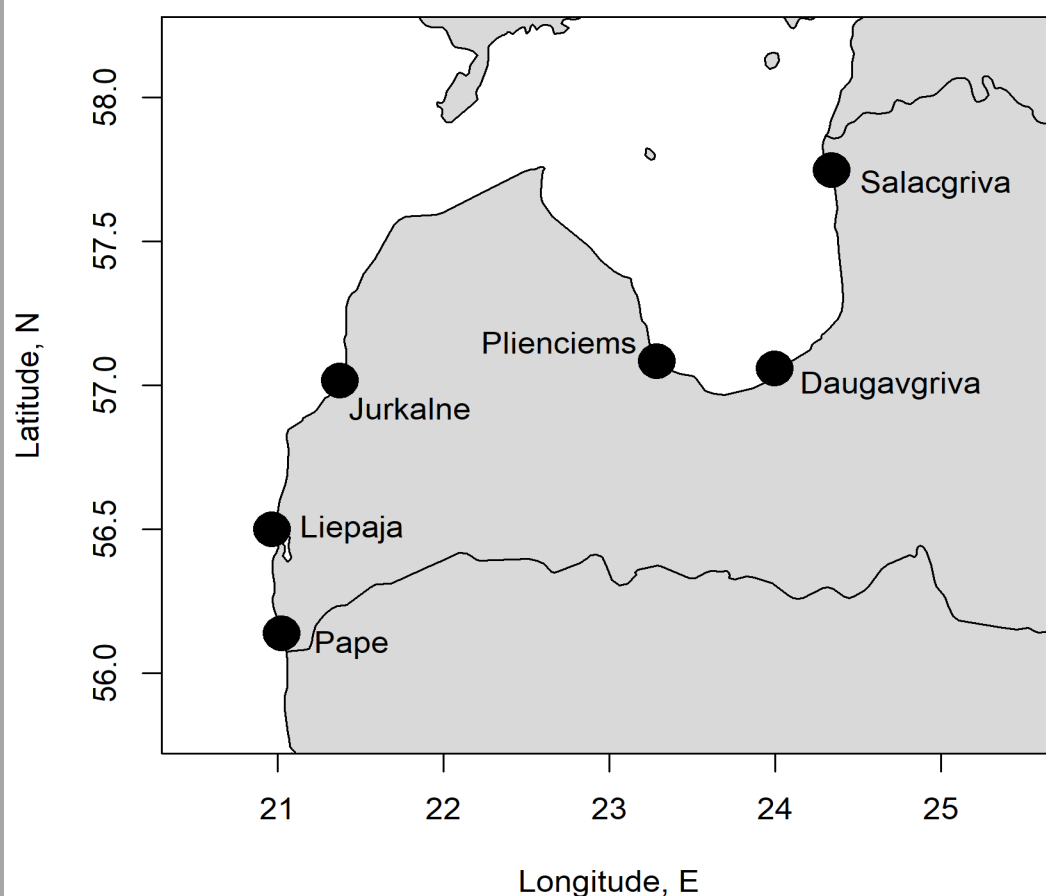


Fig.G.8. Sampling places for the Latvian coastal fish monitoring. • – sampling places.

7. For internationally coordinated surveys, provide a link to the latest meeting report of the coordination group.

Member State shall provide a hyperlink to the meeting report from the body coordinating the survey (ICES, MEDITS coordination group, MEDIAS coordination group etc.). For non-international coordinated surveys, Member State shall refer to any status report (e.g. Cruise report).

Information about survey is included in monthly report for Ministry of Agriculture based on National agreement as well as in annual scientific overview. More detailed information about Gulf of Riga Demersal Fish survey is included in institute annual report.

8. List the main use of the results of the survey (e.g. indices, abundance estimates, environmental indicators).

Member State shall specify in which context the results are used (on routine basis), both on an international as well as on a national context.

The objective of survey is to monitor changes in the fish communities in relation to the impact of eutrophication, habitat alteration, climate change, toxic substances, alien species and fishery. The results of the survey are used for the management of fishery in the Latvian coastal zone.

For data from Daugavgriva and Jurkalne the following HELCOM indicators are calculated:

Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups

Abundance of key coastal fish species

The calculated indices are included in HELCOM coastal fish core indicator database (COOL), <http://bio.helcom.fi/coastalfish>

9. Extended comments (Tables 1G and 1H)

If the Member State has extended AR Comments, these can be placed under this section. If this is the case, a reference to this text box should be provided in the corresponding tables.

(max 450 words per survey)

SECTION 2: FISHING ACTIVITY DATA

Text Box 2A: Fishing activity variables data collection strategy

General comment: This box fulfills paragraph 4 of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2, Article 4 paragraph (2) point (b) and Article 5 paragraph (2) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to describe the method used to derive estimates on representative samples where data are not to be recorded under Regulation (EU) No 1224/2009 or where data collected under Regulation (EU) No 1224/2009 are not at the right aggregation level for the intended scientific use.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box should provide information on the implementation of the data collection of fishing activity variables of Member States.

1. Description of methodologies used to cross-validate the different sources of data

The capacity, effort and landing data are collected under *Regulation (EU) No 1224/2009*.

The Capacity data are derived from the FVR (Fishing Vessel Register) which is the part of Latvian Ship Register integrated into the ICIS Information System and among other contain following information on technical parameters:

Age of the vessel,
Power of main engine,
Total vessel length (LOA),
Tonnage GT.

The vessels listed in Fleet Register but which have not filled the logbooks during the year will be considered as inactive vessels.

The basis for the calculation of the Efforts and Landings will be data from logbooks. All Latvian commercial fishermen including vessels <10 m according to the Latvian legislation have to fill logbook for every fishing trip they make. The filled logbooks are stored in the ICIS information system and include all mandatory information from Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 Table 4 (Fishing Activity Variables). The ICIS information system and coastal logbooks contain also data about recreational fishery performed by commercial fishing gears (nets, fyke-nets). These data are collected according to the internal Latvian legislation. Only information on fish species being obligatory under Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 for recreational fisheries will be provided to end user.

The additional data collection source (questionnaire) is used for the collection of the price per commercial species and Days at sea. The data about price are collected by Sale notes and state questionnaire form “1-Fishery”. The delivered price data are analysed and the most reliable prices used in the calculation of average price per species. The Days at sea collected by questionnaire form “1-Fishery are used for data cross checks with the data received from logbooks.

2. Description of methodologies used to estimate the value of landings

For the calculation of the Value of landings per species the average prices delivered from Sale notes and questionnaires will be multiplied with the landed weight delivered from logbooks.

3. Description of methodologies used to estimate the average price (it is recommended to use weighted averages, trip by trip)

The data about price are collected by Sale notes and state questionnaire form “1-fishery”. The delivered price data are analysed by experts and the most reliable prices are used for the calculation of average price.

4. Description of methodologies used to plan collection of the complementary data (sample plan methodology, type of data collected, frequency of collection etc)

The data from state statistical form/questionnaire “1-Fisheries” are received from Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB). The primary information about prices and landed weight are provided annually from owners of fishing firms by species. The information about Days at sea grouped by fleet segments is received annually from the same questionnaire. The data covers all members of the population involved in the economic activity. Despite the fact that price per species and Days at sea data collection is based on questionnaire form, participation of the respondents is obligatory according to the Latvian legislation. All collected data are stored in the CSB database. Type of data collection for Latvian fishing fleet is “Census”. The data collection Response rate is 100 %.

(max 900 words per Region)

5. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used to cross-validate the different sources of data

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

6. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used to estimate the value of landings.

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

7. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used to estimate the average price.

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

8. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used to plan collection of the complementary data

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

(max 900 words per Region)

SECTION 3: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA

Text Box 3A: Population segments for collection of economic and social data for fisheries

General comment: This box fulfils paragraph 5 points (a) and (b) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2, Article 4 paragraphs (1), (2) and (5) and Article 5 paragraph (2) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Tables 5(A) and 6 of the multiannual Union programme.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box should provide information on the implementation of the fleet socio-economic data collection of Member States.

1. Description of methodologies used to choose the different sources of data

The economic data collection is implemented for all fishing companies involved in commercial fishery. The economic variables are collected by Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB) by state statistical form/questionnaire “1-Fisheries” where economic information is aggregated by fleet segments. Primary economic information will be received annually from owners of fishing firms by the state statistical form/questionnaire “1-Fisheries”. The collected economic information is based on the annual balance sheet.

The data about prices per commercial species are collected from two data sources: Sale notes and state questionnaire form “1-Fishery”. The collected prices data are analysed and the most reliable prices used in the calculation of average price. The Days at sea are collected additionally by questionnaire form “1-Fishery”. The received data are used for data cross checks with the data received from logbooks.

2. Description of methodologies used to choose the different types of data collection

Economic data collection covers all members of the population involved in the commercial activity. Despite of the fact that economic data collection is based on questionnaire form, participation of the responders is obligatory according to the Latvian legislation. All economic data are stored in the CSB database. Type of data collection for Latvian fishing fleet is “Census”. The Response rate for the collected data is 100 %.

3. Description of methodologies used to choose sampling frame and allocation scheme

The Target population is represented by number of vessels included in the Fleet Register for each fleet segment at the 31st of December of the sample year.

4. Description of methodologies used for estimation procedures

For the calculation of the Value of landings per species as well as Gross value of landings the average prices will be multiplied with landed weight.

For the calculation of the Value of unpaid labour data about average personal costs in the segment and number of unpaid persons for each segment will be used.

The data for Consumption on fixed capital and Value of physical capital will be collected by questionnaires. The calculations are not applied.

The Financial position will be calculated based on the collected data about debts and total company assets attributed to the fishery.

The Energy consumption calculation will be based on collected average price for fuel and data collected for Energy costs.

The FTE national will be calculated based on the collected data about total employment and days at sea as it was recommended by Study No FISH/2005/14 Calculation of labour including FTE in fisheries.

The data for quota or other fishing rights has a zero value due to the absence of fishing rights market in Latvia.

The definitions and methodology for other variables will be applied according to the definitions provided by the documents “Definition of socio economic variables described in EU MAP” and “Methodologies for the socio-economic data described in EU MAP”.

5. Description of methodologies used on data quality

The economic data collection will be implemented for all member of the population and for each fishing company involved in commercial fishery. The Response rate and Achievement sample rate for economic data collection is planned to be 100%. The coastal fishery (fleet segment VL0010) has a separation for the commercial and recreational fishery. The vessels for the both types of coastal activities are included in the Fleet Register. The economic data collection will not be implemented for the recreational fishery. However, for the recreational fishery biological data will be collected according to the Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 table 3 (Species to be collected for recreational fisheries). The detailed description for the coastal fishery is provided in ANNEX 1: DESCRIPTION OF COASTAL ZONE FISHERY SEGMENT VL0010.

The following quality indicators will be calculated for the data collection type “Census”:

Accuracy indicator for type of error Bias:

- Coverage rate,
- Response rate,
- Achievement sample rate.

Accuracy indicator for type of error Variability (only in cases when Response rate is less than 70%):

- Coefficient of Variation

In order to protect data confidentiality it is planned not to submit to end user the following collected data sets:

- For inactive vessels the collected data of Capital costs and Capital value, if the number of vessels is less than 10 vessels in segment;
- The collected economic data for less than 10 long distance sea vessels operated in Atlantic region in each segment separated by fishing area;
- The collected economic data for less than 5 companies with the long distance sea vessels operated in Atlantic region in each segment separated by fishing area.

(The vessels operating in Atlantic region cannot be clustered with the Baltic Sea fleet due to the significant differences in type of fishing activities and operating areas.)

(max 900 words per Region)

6. Deviations from Work Plan methodology for selection of data source

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

7. Deviations from Work Plan methodology to choose type of data collection

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

8. Deviations from Work Plan methodology regarding sampling frame and allocation scheme

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

9. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used for estimation procedures

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

10. Quality assurance

10.1 Sound methodology

The CSB operates in compliance with principles stipulated by the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCP)* that comprises the independence standard of the European Statistical System, provides further guarantee for good operation of ESS and ensuring reliable statistics. The process of the CSB's statistical work takes place also according to the basic principles of the United Nations Official Statistics. In the European Statistical System the quality of statistical data is assessed according to six quality criteria: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, coherence. These criteria are included also among the ESCP principles.

The variables collected in the frame of the Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 were collected according to the methodologies, guidelines and best practices agreed by PGECON, STECF EWG expert groups. The definitions and methodology for the variables was applied according to the definitions provided by the documents "Definition of socio economic variables described in EU MAP" and "Methodologies for the socio-economic data described in EU MAP". The applied methodologies are publicly available at the web-page: <https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/docs-links/socio-eco-var>

* Brussels, 25.05.2005 COM (2005) 217 final, COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities, RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities.

10.2. Accuracy and reliability

The methodologies suggested by SGECA 09-02 (Barcelona) have been used in terms of quality indicators. Response rate and Achieved sample rate are provided in Table 3A. The quality indicators were calculated for the data collection type "Census".

The European and other international standards, guidelines and the best practice are applied in collection, organization, processing and dissemination of the official statistics. The reliability of the statistics is enhanced by good administration and efficiency. In this relation sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost-effectiveness are significant factors.

The approach of good administration usually comprises such elements as: accountability, transparency, involvement, equality, justice, capability and competence, responsiveness to people needs.

One of the CSB's activities is to introduce the basics of the Total Quality Management System (TQMS) – to identify statistical and organizational processes and develop their descriptions in compliance with requirements of the quality management system. The fundamental idea of the quality management system is to promote complete satisfaction of wishes and needs of data users to a maximum extent by continuous improvement of the statistical institution's activity. Introduction of TQMS was started in 2006 within the framework of twinning project "Introduction of TQMS in the CSB" from which resulted the following:

The structure of the CSB's quality report used for describing the statistical surveys of the CSB has been developed;

The survey of statistical data users on the quality of the CSB's data has been conducted;

The main processes have been defined: fundamental processes, as basic activity of the institution, processes of statistical information production, client service and implementation of new development projects; auxiliary processes as management and support processes that exist only for supporting the institution's basic activity. The result of these activities does not reach data users (for example, accountancy, legal services, provision of the IT infrastructure, repairs and maintenance etc.

Survey on the satisfaction of statistical data users has been conducted;

Quality Guidelines of the CSB have been developed.

10.3. Accessibility and Clarity

Are methodological documents publicly available? Yes

The documents "Quality policy and objectives of the Central Statistical Bureau" and "Quality guidelines" are publicly available.

Are data stored in databases? Yes

A technical specification for the TQMS documentary basis has been elaborated and the data basis was generated within the framework of service contract "Documentation Storage of the Total Quality Management System" (project No. 2005/017-495-04-02 "Administrative Capacity of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia").

Where can methodological and other documentation be found?

The documents "Quality policy and objectives of the Central Statistical Bureau" and "Quality guidelines" can be found at the web-page: <http://www.csb.gov.lv/en/dokumenti/quality-guidelines-30868.html>

(max 1000 words)

SECTION 3: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA

Pilot Study 3: Data on employment by education level and nationality

General comment: This box fulfills paragraph 5 point (b) and paragraph 6 point (b) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 and Article 3 paragraph (3) point (c) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Table 6 of the multiannual Union programme.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box is intended to provide information on the results obtained from the implementation of the pilot study (including deviations from planned and justifications as to why if this was not the case).

1. Aim of pilot study

The main aim of the pilot study is organization and implementation of the social data collection. The pilot study results can provide adequate data on employment variability. The collected social data could be used for the estimation of the number of employees' in fishery sector. Furthermore, the received social data could be included into subsequent forecast for the development of

Latvian fishing fleet. The pilot study is going to be conducted in order to evaluate feasibility of the social data collection for the variables:

- employment by gender,
- employment by age,
- employment by education level,
- nationality,
- employment by employment status.

2. Duration of pilot study

Duration of the pilot survey will be 2 years. In 2017 we will prepare the technical specification of the pilot study that will be based on the recommendations of STECF. The technical specification of the survey will be prepared during first half of 2017. The survey itself will be performed by a firm that is specialised on running social inquiries. The firm will be selected by procurement procedure that will be organised in the first half of summer of 2017. The survey itself will be started in autumn of 2017 and will last for 1 year. The results of the survey will be analysed in September-December of 2018.

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of pilot study

The social data collection will be based on survey. The survey would be implemented based on questionnaires forms. The questionnaires will be distributed between fishing companies. The planned coverage rate for the survey will be around 30% of companies in each sector (fishery, aquaculture, fish processing).

The age classes, education level and employment status does not defined in the document "Definition of socio economic variables described in EU MAP". The obtained results of the study could be aggregated to the following groups for each variable:

Employment by gender:

- Male
- Female

The sector of fishery:

- Distance-fishery
- Fishery in the Baltic sea and Gulf of Riga
- Coastal fishery
- Inland water fishery
- Aquaculture
- Fish processing

The term of occupation in the sector:

- 5 years and under
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 21 years and over

Employment by age where age categories are applied:

- 21 and under

22-36

37-51

52-65

66 and over

Employment by education level where following education level are applied:

Less than secondary education

Secondary education

College or professional course

Bachelor or 4 year degree

Master degree

Doctor degree

Other (to include the answer)

The area of education where following groups are applied:

Forestry and Agriculture

Education and trainings

Economic and Finance

Business and Administration

Medicine and Health

Computer science and Technology

Culture and Social science

Other (to include the answer)

The nationality:

EU citizen

Non EU citizen

Other (to include the answer)

The employment by employment status:

Full time employment

Part time employment

Student

Retired

Other (to include the answer)

(max 900 words)

4. Achievement of the original expected outcomes of pilot study and justification if this was not the case.

The pilot study was launched in April 2017. The technical specification was developed for the open tender in the end of October. The specification included a short description of the data collection process and questionnaires forms. As the result of the open tender the company that is

the European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR) association member and specialized to carry out regular public opinion polls and surveys on social, economic and political questions have been chosen. In accordance with the plan, in the first part of the survey all enterprises operating in fishery, aquaculture and fish processing have been interviewed by phone. The coverage rate was 100%. The agreement to participate in the survey was received in March 2018 from 151 enterprises. The share of respondents was 46% from all enterprises operating in fisheries in 2016. In terms of the second part of the survey, the interactive questionnaires were generated based on programme "Lime Survey". The link has been sent by email to each respondent at April 2018. For the information security protection the access to the questionnaires was possible by address link and password specially provided for each respondent. All social variables from the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 table 6, table 11, parameters recommended by PGECON 2017 as well as parameters listed in WP section 3 Pilot Study 3 were included in the questionnaires. The additional information about raw materials for the fish processing was included in the questionnaire and distributed between fish processing enterprises. The parameter "weight of a raw material" is optional variable for the data collection requirement. However, it was included in the questionnaires form to evaluate the opportunity to collect data for the raw materials at fish processing sector. All social information is collected for 2017. It is planned to get the results from questionnaires by June 2018. The final analysed data and conclusions will be available in the end of September 2018.

5. Incorporation of results from pilot study into regular sampling by the Member State.

The conclusions and decision about incorporation of results from pilot study into regular sampling will be possible to make after receiving of final results in the end of September 2018.

(max 900 words)

SECTION 3: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA

Text Box 3B: Population segments for collection of economic and social data for aquaculture

General comment: This box fulfills paragraph 6 points (a) and (b) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2, Article 4 paragraphs (1) and (5) and Article 5 paragraph (2) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Tables 6 and 7 of the multiannual Union programme.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box should provide information on the implementation of the socio-economic data collection for aquaculture of Member States.

1. Description of methodologies used to choose the different sources of data

Data on aquaculture in Latvia could be obtained only from economically active enterprises, which farm market size fish for sale or produce young fish for restocking and on growing. There is only freshwater aquaculture in Latvia and there are no net-cage farms in sea and fresh water sites.

The main activities of the Latvian aquaculture enterprises are as follows:

Fish cultivation in freshwater earth ponds and land based farms in special tanks and growing up for market sale.

Short term fish cultivation in freshwater ponds for commercial angling.

Fish cultivation in household ponds for self-consumption or hobby angling.

Artificial breeding of young fish for restocking in coastal seawater and inland freshwater. The government program is implemented and one government institution is involved in the restocking process.

The total volume and value of freshwater aquaculture production in Latvia were less than 1% between 2012 and 2014 and was around 0.06% in average from the total Union production reported to EUROSTAT (according to the Regulation (EC) No762/2008). Although the freshwater aquaculture data collection is not mandatory (according to the Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 Chapter III Data Requirements section 6) some economic variables will be collected. The list of variables is presented in Table3B Population segments. The economic data collection will be carried out for the basic information which could provide an overview of the aquaculture sector, as well as serve as a basis for the calculation of the sector's economic efficiency. The economic variables are collected by Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB) by state statistical form/questionnaire "1-Aquaculture". Apart from economic data the questionnaire includes information on production by species in tonnes and value, total area of fish ponds, volume of rearing tanks and number of employment.

2. Description of methodologies used to choose the different types of data collection

Primary economic information from state statistical form/questionnaire "1-Aquaculture" is received annually from owners of fishing firms. Type of data collection for Latvian aquaculture is "Census". All received economic data are stored in the CSB database. The Response rate for the collected data is 100 %.

3. Description of methodologies used to choose sampling frame and allocation scheme

The questionnaires should be filled in by each company involved in commercial activity during the sampling year. Due to the small number of the aquaculture enterprises collected data would be presented only as a 'total' and not disaggregated into categories by the number of persons employed, as well as fishing techniques and species groups.

4. Description of methodologies used for estimation procedures

For the calculation of Value of unpaid labour will be used data about average personal costs and number of unpaid persons. The definitions and methodology for other variables will be applied according to the definitions provided by the documents "Definition of socio economic variables described in EU MAP" and "Methodologies for the socio-economic data described in EU MAP".

5. Description of methodologies used on data quality

The following quality indicators will be calculated for the data collection type "Census":

Accuracy indicator for type of error Bias:

Coverage rate

Response rate

Achievement rate

Accuracy indicator for type of error Variability (only in cases when response rate is less than 70%):

Coefficient of Variation

(max 1000 words)

6. Deviations from Work Plan methodology for selection of data source

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

7. Deviations from Work Plan methodology to choose type of data collection

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

8. Deviations from Work Plan methodology regarding sampling frame and allocation scheme

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

9. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used for estimation procedures

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

10. Quality assurance

10.1 Sound methodology

The CSB operates in 8

The variables collected in the frame of the Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 were collected according to the methodologies, guidelines and best practices agreed by PGECON, STECF EWG expert groups. The definitions and methodology for the variables was applied according to the definitions provided by the documents “Definition of socio economic variables described in EU MAP” and “Methodologies for the socio-economic data described in EU MAP”. The applied methodologies are publicly available at the web-page: <https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/docs-links/socio-eco-var>

* Brussels, 25.05.2005 COM (2005) 217 final, COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities, RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities.

10.2. Accuracy and reliability

The methodologies suggested by SGECA 09-02 (Barcelona) have been used in terms of quality indicators. Response rate and Achieved sample rate are provided in Table 3A. The quality indicators were calculated for the data collection type “Census”.

The European and other international standards, guidelines and the best practice are applied in collection, organization, processing and dissemination of the official statistics. The reliability of the statistics is enhanced by good administration and efficiency. In this relation sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost-effectiveness are significant factors.

The approach of good administration usually comprises such elements as: accountability, transparency, involvement, equality, justice, capability and competence, responsiveness to people needs.

One of the CSB’s activities is to introduce the basics of the Total Quality Management System (TQMS) – to identify statistical and organizational processes and develop their descriptions in compliance with requirements of the quality management system. The fundamental idea of the quality management system is to promote complete satisfaction of wishes and needs of data users to a maximum extent by continuous improvement of the statistical institution's activity. Introduction of TQMS was started in 2006 within the framework of twinning project “Introduction of TQMS in the CSB” from which resulted the following:

The structure of the CSB’s quality report used for describing the statistical surveys of the CSB has been developed;

The survey of statistical data users on the quality of the CSB's data has been conducted;

The main processes have been defined: fundamental processes as basic activity of the institution, processes of statistical information production, client service and implementation of new development projects; auxiliary processes as management and support processes that exist only for supporting the institution's basic activity. The result of these activities does not reach data users (for example, accountancy, legal services, provision of the IT infrastructure, repairs and maintenance etc).

Survey on the satisfaction of statistical data users has been conducted;

Quality Guidelines of the CSB have been developed.

10.3. Accessibility and Clarity

Are methodological documents publicly available? Yes

The documents “Quality policy and objectives of the Central Statistical Bureau” and “Quality guidelines” are publicly available.

Are data stored in databases? Yes

A technical specification for the TQMS documentary basis has been elaborated and the data basis was generated within the framework of service contract “Documentation Storage of the Total Quality Management System” (project No. 2005/017-495-04-02 “Administrative Capacity of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia”).

Where can methodological and other documentation be found?

The documents “Quality policy and objectives of the Central Statistical Bureau” and “Quality guidelines” can be found at the web-page: <http://www.csb.gov.lv/en/dokumenti/quality-guidelines-30868.html>

(max 1000 words)

SECTION 3: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA

Pilot Study 4: Environmental data on aquaculture

General comment: This box fulfills paragraph 6 point (c) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme and Article 2 and Article 4 paragraph (3) point (d) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Table 8 of the multiannual Union programme.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box is intended to provide information on the results obtained from the implementation of the pilot study (including deviations from planned and justifications as to why if this was not the case).

1. Aim of pilot study

The Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 Chapter III Data Requirements section 6 defines that social, economic and environmental data collection is optional for freshwater aquaculture. As there is no aquaculture in sea or in coastal waters and the freshwater production is on the low level in Latvia it is not planned to collect environmental data in aquaculture sector. The pilot study is not planned.

2. Duration of pilot study

Only freshwater aquaculture. The pilot study is not planned.

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of pilot study

Only freshwater aquaculture. The pilot study is not planned.

(max 900 words)

4. Achievement of the original expected outcomes of pilot study and justification if this was not the case.

Not applicable.

5. Incorporation of results from pilot study into regular sampling by the Member State.

Not applicable.

(max 900 words)

SECTION 3: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA

Text Box 3C: Population segments for collection of economic and social data for the processing industry

General comment: This box fulfils footnote 6 of paragraph 1.1(d) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme, Article 2, Article 4 paragraphs (1) and (5) and Article 5 paragraph (2) of Decision (EU) 2016/1701. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Table 11 of the multiannual Union programme.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box should provide information on the implementation of the socio-economic data collection for aquaculture of Member States.

1. Description of methodologies used to choose the different sources of data

According to the Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1251 Table 11 the processing industry data collection could be carried out on a voluntary basis. However, the data concerning processing industry in Latvia are collected for the EUROSTAT database. The same data could be provided also for Data collection needs. The data collection for the fish processing industry is based on questionnaires/statistical forms and State Revenue Service information. The data is provided to Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia by fish processing enterprises in accordance with their bookkeeping information.

2. Description of methodologies used to choose the different types of data collection

All economic active enterprises having the EUROSTAT classification according to definition NACE Rev.2 10.2. 'Products' "Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and mollusks" are involved in the surveys. The participation of the responders is obligatory according to the Latvian national legislation. All economic data are stored in the CSB database. Type of data collection is "Census". The Response rate for the collected data is 100%.

3. Description of methodologies used to choose sampling frame and allocation scheme

The questionnaires should be filled in by each company involved in commercial activity during the sampling year.

4. Description of methodologies used for estimation procedures

For the calculation of Value of unpaid labour data about average personal costs and number of unpaid persons will be used. The definitions and methodology for the other variables will be applied

according to the definitions provided by the documents “Definition of socio economic variables described in EU MAP” and “Methodologies for the socio-economic data described in EU MAP”.

5. Description of methodologies used on data quality

The following quality indicators will be calculated for the data collection type “Census”:

Accuracy indicator for type of error Bias:

Coverage rate

Response rate

Achievement rate

Accuracy indicator for type of error Variability (only in cases when response rate is less than 70%):

Coefficient of Variation

(max 1000 words)

6. Deviations from Work Plan methodology for selection of data source

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

7. Deviations from Work Plan methodology to choose type of data collection

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

8. Deviations from Work Plan methodology regarding sampling frame and allocation scheme

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

9. Deviations from Work Plan methodology used for estimation procedures

No deviations from Work Plan.

No actions to avoid deviations are needed.

10. Quality assurance

10.1 Sound methodology

Briefly describe if the data collection follow methodologies, guidelines and best practices agreed in expert groups and whether methodologies are documented and are made publicly available.

10.2. Accuracy and reliability

The methodologies suggested by SGECA 09-02 (Barcelona) have been used in terms of quality indicators. Response rate and Achieved sample rate are provided in Table 3A. The quality indicators were calculated for the data collection type “Census”.

The European and other international standards, guidelines and the best practice are applied in collection, organization, processing and dissemination of the official statistics. The reliability of the statistics is enhanced by good administration and efficiency. In this relation sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost-effectiveness are significant factors.

The approach of good administration usually comprises such elements as: accountability, transparency, involvement, equality, justice, capability and competence, responsiveness to people needs.

One of the CSB's activities is to introduce the basics of the Total Quality Management System (TQMS) – to identify statistical and organizational processes and develop their descriptions in compliance with requirements of the quality management system. The fundamental idea of the quality management system is to promote complete satisfaction of wishes and needs of data users to a maximum extent by continuous improvement of the statistical institution's activity. Introduction of TQMS was started in 2006 within the framework of twinning project “Introduction of TQMS in the CSB” from which resulted the following:

The structure of the CSB's quality report used for describing the statistical surveys of the CSB has been developed;

The survey of statistical data users on the quality of the CSB's data has been conducted;

The main processes have been defined: fundamental processes as basic activity of the institution, processes of statistical information production, client service and implementation of new development projects; auxiliary processes as management and support processes that exist only for supporting the institution's basic activity. The result of these activities does not reach data users (for example, accountancy, legal services, provision of the IT infrastructure, repairs and maintenance etc.

Survey on the satisfaction of statistical data users has been conducted;

Quality Guidelines of the CSB have been developed.

10.3. Accessibility and Clarity

Are methodological documents publicly available? Yes

The documents “Quality policy and objectives of the Central Statistical Bureau” and “Quality guidelines” are publicly available.

Are data stored in databases? Yes

A technical specification for the TQMS documentary basis has been elaborated and the data basis was generated within the framework of service contract “Documentation Storage of the Total Quality Management System” (project No. 2005/017-495-04-02 “Administrative Capacity of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia”).

Where can methodological and other documentation be found?

The documents “Quality policy and objectives of the Central Statistical Bureau” and “Quality guidelines” can be found at the web-page: <http://www.csb.gov.lv/en/dokumenti/quality-guidelines-30868.html>

(max 1000 words)

SECTION 4: SAMPLING STRATEGY FOR BIOLOGICAL DATA FROM COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Text Box 4A: Sampling plan description for biological data

General comment: This box fulfills Article 3, Article 4 paragraph (4) and Article 8 of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701 and forms the basis for the fulfilment of paragraph 2 point (a)(i) of Chapter III of the multiannual Union programme. This Table refers to data to be collected under Tables 1(A), 1(B) and 1(C) of the multiannual Union programme.

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box should provide information on the deviations from the planned sampling of Member States.

Baltic Sea

Data will be collected for all fleet segments in the Baltic Sea. Collected material contains data from open sea vessels and coastal area boats (vessels < 12 m). Primary sampling unit for all segments is vessel trip. The sampling effort will be allocated taking into account the recommendation that metier should be sampled monthly if the fishing trips are less than two weeks long. The duration of fishing trips of all metiers in the Baltic is less than two weeks long therefore they all will be sampled on monthly basis. However, e.g. in herring trapnet fishery, the samples are collected more often because these data are used as tuning fleet in the assessment.

In 2017, 53 trawlers and 2 gillnetters were fishing in the open part of the Baltic Sea. Trawlers belong to two segments: 12-< 18 m operating in the Gulf of Riga and 24-<40m operating in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga. The most numerous segment is the small vessels with length <12 m with polyvalent passive gears, operating in the coastal zone.

Information for each year about open sea vessels will be obtained from Fisheries Department in Ministry of Agriculture. In the end of each year, the Department establishes a list for the next year with fishing vessels which have the right to carry out commercial fishing in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga outside the coastal waters. Information in this list is split by species and fishing areas for each individual vessel.

Using information from this list and logbook data from last year three separate vessel lists will be created:

List with ships that can perform pelagic fishery in the Baltic Sea,

List with ships that can perform demersal fishery in the Baltic Sea,

List with ships that can perform pelagic fishery in the Gulf of Riga;

Part of the vessels depending from the gear used and fishing area can be in different lists. For these three kinds of fisheries probability sample survey, in which data are collected from randomly selected units of a population, will be used. Excel function Ran between will be used for random selecting of ships from the list.

Random ship selection from the corresponding list will be used for pelagic and demersal fishery in the open sea. Vessel selecting protocol should note the following information:

The name of selected vessel,

Type of fishing / segment,

Is able to enter into contact with the ship's representative - (negotiation date, time, contact person, phone),

Does the ship is available for data collection on the next voyage (yes / no, if "no" then the reason why it is not possible),

Does the ship is suitable for the observer to work (yes / no),

Is the contact with a representative of the fishing vessel successful (yes / no),

Has the journey taken place on the selected ship (yes / no)?

If is not possible to carry out the planned trip, the selection process is repeated and next ship from the list is selected.

Biological data collection from the pelagic fishery in the Gulf of Riga will be performed using random draw from vessels and the samples will be collected from the selected vessels in the harbours.

In the coastal (small scale) fisheries non-probability sample survey, in which data are collected from non-randomly selected units of a population will be used. In the coastal fishery we will conclude contracts with several fishermen for the self-sampling and collection of biological samples. These fishermen will evenly cover the coastal area. The sampling will include also separate on-board visits to fisherman and comparison with the self-sampling data.

Biological information on length, age, weigh, sex ratio and sexual maturity will be collected for 10 species: *Anguilla anguilla*, *Clupea harengus*, *Gadus morhua*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Platichthys flesus*, *Psetta maxima*, *Salmo salar*, *Salmo trutta*, *Sander lucioperca* and *Sprattus sprattus*. Problems with maturity determination for *Salmo salar*, *Salmo trutta*, *Sander lucioperca* can be in the coastal fishery. Fishermen's sell fishes ungutted. Maturity stage can be determined by season. Target species in the pelagic fishery in the Gulf of Riga is *Clupea harengus*. Target species in the pelagic fishery in the Baltic Sea are *Sprattus sprattus* and *Clupea harengus*. Target species in the demersal fishery in the Baltic Sea are *Gadus morhua* and *Platichthys flesus*. Target species in the coastal fishery are all selected species for biological data collection except *Sprattus sprattus*.

During the on-board sampling comprehensive sampling of all species will be performed. It should be highlighted that in the Baltic Sea most of the metier perform rather clean fishery and the by-catch of non-target species is low or could be absent at all. The on-board sampling will be used for demersal fishery where the discard level for flounder should be determined. In metiers where discards are low sampling in harbours will be applied except trawl fishery targeting *Sprattus sprattus* where additionally on-board sampling will be performed to estimate the by-catch of herring. During the on-board sampling data are collected from each fishery act.

Quality of obtained biological and length data are accessed by calculating precision for each species, quarter, gear and length/gender/age class using bootstrap method to see if the collected sample size is sufficient to achieve precision of 5% or 20%.

Eastern Arctic

There is only one Latvian vessel fishing in the Eastern Arctic. The vessel is targeting redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) with pelagic trawl. Last years this vessel changed their fishing grounds and target species. Now this vessel operates in regions where participation of observer on board is not obligatory and it is targeting Atlantic cod. Due to lack of specialists and crew migrations, it is not possible to find solution how to collect biological information. In addition, timing of trips, fishing region and durations it is not possible to predict. All these problems were raised in Latvian Annual report of 2015 and STECF 16-12 expert group recommended to ask derogation for sampling redfish. In next year's Latvia will not collect samples of redfish in North Atlantic.

Other regions (CECAF area Central East Atlantic)

Only a few Latvian vessels are fishing in this area (in 2013-2014 four vessels, in 2015 two vessels). All vessels were fishing with pelagic trawl and targeting assemblage of small pelagic fishes. This is a fishery targeting assemblage of pelagic species the main of which are *Trachurus* sp., *Scomber japonicus*, *Scomber scombrus* and *Sardinella maderensis*. The discard level is low. Starting with 2012 the sampling of pelagic fisheries is performed on the basis of multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Poland by local observers. The sampling results are presented in the Annual report of the Netherlands.

AMENDMENT TO:

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

December 2016

This Amendment replaces the Amendment dated April 2015 to extend the effective time-frame for this multi-lateral agreement. The extension of the time-frame commences 1st of January 2017.

The Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters, as signed by all countries named in June 2011 (See annex) is amended as follows from 1st January 2017 onwards:

Term:

The multi-lateral agreement is extended beyond its end date of 31 December 2016 (end date as agreed in the Amendment to the original multi-lateral agreement dated April 2015). The new end date is 31 December 2017.

Costs:

The cost share of the total costs for 2017 for each country follows a key based on the share in average landings in 2008-2012. Following EMFF co-funding rules, co-funding of the National expenses shall be covered through the National EMFF budget of each respective member. In 2016, RCM LDF reviewed the landings share and concluded that for a new agreement, the cost share needs to be updated. This amendment continues the shares as listed in the agreement.

Cost shares are maximum amounts, in case of lower costs, deductions might apply in line with the relative shares.

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

Partner	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	average 2008- 2012	Landings share	Cost share per year
Germany	0	0	20,650	37,088	14,582	14,464	4.96%	€ 3,358
Latvia	68,410	81,283	87,237	89,667	30,723	71,464	24.51%	€ 16,593
Lithuania	120,100	124,480	116,040	121,000	44,133	105,151	36.06%	€ 24,413
Netherlands	83,630	68,019	92,980	55,044	34,926	66,920	22.95%	€ 15,537
Poland	17,709	46,287	14,605	60,177	29,178	33,591	11.52%	€ 7,799
TOTAL	289,849	320,069	331,512	362,976	153,542	291,590	100.00%	€ 67,700

(max 900 words per Region)

Deviation from the sampling plan according to Article 5 paragraph (3) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701:

2. Deviations from the Work Plan

Baltic Sea

Planned sampling level for sampled trips were greatly exceeded for strata SB-2 (coastal fishery with exception of sprat and herring. The reason for the excess sampling in the coastal fishery was connected with data collection for eel, salmon, pike perch and sea trout to achieve the planned sampling level since the catches of these species in coastal fishery were very low and the number of fishes in a single fishery act was small (the total catches in 2017 for eel, salmon, pike perch and sea trout were < 0.1t, 3.2t, 1.7t, 7.8t, respectively). Excess sampling has been realized on the national expense of Latvia.

Eastern Arctic

There is only one Latvian vessel fishing in the North Atlantic. The ship is targeting redfish with pelagic trawl in the NAFO area. The ship performed one trip in 2017. Information from trip was not collected. Last years this vessel changed their fishing grounds and target species. Now this vessel operates in regions where participation of observer on board is not obligatory and it is targeting Atlantic cod. Due to lack of specialists and crew migrations, it is not possible to find solution how to collect biological information. In addition, timing of trips, fishing region and durations it is not possible to predict. All these problems were raised in Latvian Annual report of 2015 and STECF 16-12 expert group recommended to ask derogation for sampling redfish. In next year's Latvia will not collect samples of redfish in North Atlantic.

Other regions (CECAF area Central East Atlantic)

No deviations from the Work Plan

3. Action to avoid deviations

For 2018 the sampling scheme will be adapted to take into account the changes in fishing activity and to ensure that the planned number of length measurements and trip number are achieved.

In next year's Latvia will not collect samples of redfish in North Atlantic.

(max. 1000 words per region OR fishing ground)

SECTION 5: DATA QUALITY

Text Box 5A: Quality assurance framework for biological data

General comment: This box is applicable to the Annual Report. This box fulfills Article 5 paragraph (2) point (a) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. This box is intended to specify data to be collected under Tables 1(A), 1(B) and 1(C) of the multiannual Union programme. Use this box to provide additional information on Table 5A.

1. Evidence of data quality assurance

Data quality assurance is described in manual for observers how to collect biological data and how to deal with collected data. Sampling design is described in methodology of biological sampling random principle. Refusals and positive responses are recorded in random sample protocol, which is not publically accessible. Link for sampling design scheme is provided in table file of Annual

Report in Table 5A (in Latvian). All collected data are imported in local biological database BIODATA and also imported to regional database FishFrame.

2. Sampling design

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5A.

Sampling design, sampling implementation and data capture are described in four files (link is provided in Table 5A) in Latvian:

- A handbook for Latvian observers how to collect biological information from fishing vessels in the Baltic Sea;
- Biological data collection for Atlantic Cod from commercial fishery;
- Biological data collection for Flounder from commercial fishery;
- Guidelines to perform coastal fish monitoring.

3. Sampling implementation

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5A.

See point two.

4. Data capture

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5A.

See point two.

5. Data Storage

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5A.

All collected information is stored in local biological database BIODATA.

6. Data processing

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5A.

Data processing is performed according to guidelines for each data call.

(max. 900 words per Region/RFMO/RFO/IO OR sampling scheme)

SECTION 5: DATA QUALITY

Text Box 5B: Quality assurance framework for socioeconomic data

General comment: This box fulfills Article 5 paragraph (2) point (b) of the Decision (EU) 2016/1701. This box is intended to specify data to be collected under Tables 5(A), 6 and 7 of the multiannual Union programme. Use this box to provide additional information on Table 5B.

1. Evidence of data quality assurance

Latvia fulfils the obligation in the frame of data collection Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251. The information for the “all sectors” was collected in accordance to the Work Plan 2017-2019. The coverage rate for the “all data collection schemes” was 100% for the fishing activity and economic data.

The methodology used to assure the quality of the collected data is presented in the section 2A, table 2A and sections 3A, 3B, 3C under paragraphs: 5.Sound methodology, 6. Accuracy and reliability, 7. Accessibility and Clarity, as well as in the tables 3A, 3B, 3C.

2. Section P3 Impartiality and objectiveness

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

3. Section P4 Confidentiality

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

4. Section P5 Sound methodology

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

5. Section P6 Appropriate statistical procedures

‘N’ was indicated in Table 5B for the question “Are revisions documented and available?”

The collected information is stored in the database and different codes are applied for each type of entered data. In case of revision the code is automatically changed into the other type of code characterising the mistake or changes in entered information. All codes are stored in the appropriate tables which are part of the data base. As the result all revisions are automatically documented but cannot be available because it is a technical part of the database.

6. Section P7 Non-excessive burden on respondents

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

7. Section P8 Cost effectiveness

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

8. Section P9 Relevance

‘N’ was indicated in Table 5B for the question “Are end-users listed and updated?”

The information could be required by the different end-users during the year. The exchange of information within the country takes place on the basis of agreements on the transfer of data between different institutions. Data transfer to new end-users is carried out only after a detailed acquaintance with the request purpose.

9. Section P10 Accuracy and reliability

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

10. Section P11 Timeliness and punctuality

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

11. Section P12 coherence and comparability

‘Y’ was indicated in Table 5B.

12. Section P13 Accessibility and Clarity

‘N’ was indicated in Table 5B for the question “Are methodological documents publicly available?” in case when data sources are administrative or financial accounts data. Under these types of data sources the data required from the different state government databases are mentioned. The methodological documents are provided for the data collected by survey.

(max. 900 words per Region/RFMO/RFO/IO/NSB OR sector)

ANNEX 1: DESCRIPTION OF COASTAL ZONE FISHERY SEGMENT VL0010

The coastal zone fishery (segment VL0010) in Latvia from 2011 is represented by two types of fishing activities: commercial and recreational.

1. Commercial coastal zone fishery

According to the Latvian legislation a special fishing permits (licence) for commercial fishing should be received for commercial activities in fishery. The licence provides the permission for the fishing enterprises to fish, tranship and sell the catch. The information about company, fishing licence, vessels, gears, landings and fishing days should be provided monthly. This information should be reported in coastal logbook per each fishing operation.

The economic data about income and costs from the Commission Decision 2016/1251 table 5A are fully collected annually by Central Statistical Bureau state statistic Questionnaire form "1-fishery". The coverage rate is 100%. It is planned to commit the social data collection started from autumn on 2017. The first social data for the commercial fishery could be received in the end of 2018.

2. Recreational coastal zone fishery

The share of the recreational fishermen who use limited commercial fishing gears have a special fishing permit (licence) for the self-consumption fishing which define that the natural persons have to be registered in the Marine and Inland Waters Administration of the State Environmental Service. These fishermen have permission to use vessel registered in the Fleet Register and are obliged to fill coastal logbooks monthly where the information is reported about each fishing operation.

The recreational fishery licence has following limitations:

Cod volume is less than 10 % from total catch;

During one fishing operation it is permitted to use only one type of fishing gear: hooks (HOK), fixed gillnets (GNH), Fish nets (NET), Eelpout trap nets (FYK);

The catch could not be sold.

The economic and social data for recreational fishery are not collected but some parameters such as value of landing, fuel costs, and repair and maintenance costs could be calculated based on collected economic data for the commercial enterprises.

The share of the recreational fishery in the Baltic Sea was 0.15% and 0.38% respectively from the total Latvian landings in 2015. These values are negligible and cannot influence the economic situation in Latvia.

All information from the coastal logbooks is stored in Latvian national database. Only data for the commercial fishery will be submitted annually in the frame of FDI or Economic data calls.

Is important to mention that the same small-scale vessels from the Fleet Register could be used by both activities: commercial and recreational. There were 25 such vessels reported per both fishing types in 2015. For the analysis the capacity data were attributed to the commercial fishery data.