



**EFCA**  
European Fisheries Control Agency

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**BSAC-EFCA bilateral meeting on relevant control issues in the Baltic Sea**

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6 May 2021





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**General questions and cooperation**  
**Q1, 2**

EFCA received a request for assistance from BALTFISH.

The role of EFCA is defined in the Control Expert Group ToR:

- Technical assistance
- Professional secretariat for the group
- Main areas of cooperation:
  - LO Compliance evaluation
  - Standardisation of inspections and guidelines
  - Cooperation with industry and BSAC
  - EFCA FISHNET used for storing CEG relevant documents for reference
- EFCA has no formal cooperation with voluntary control people / organizations. If something is received it is forwarded to competent authorities.

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## CCTV & REM

### Q 3, 4, 5

#### ❑ Legal security of CCTV footage for use in court cases:

- Not directly within EFCA's mandate. It is MS specific and according to national data protection legislation

Automated species identification and catch recording systems being developed

- Special cameras in the processing area used for identifying species and calculating size/weight, and software developed through machine learning

#### ❑ REM Technical guidelines

- indicative minimum number of cameras for vessels of 18-24m is 5 (i.e. demersal trawler), depends on type of fishing vessel, vessel configuration, processing areas, etc.

- Number of cameras needed to fully monitor activities of a given fishing vessel needs to be depicted in the Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) individually drafted for each fishing vessel

- The VMP would also consider the optimized installation → not to disturb the fishing activities onboard



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## Weighing and identification of species

### Q 6, 7

• EFCA provides training, promote best practices, guidelines for sampling unsorted pelagic landings in the BS.

- Some dedicated specific actions in JDPs promote the use of the guidelines.

• Exchange of inspectors to promote level playing field.

• Weighing study (non-audit) focused on methodological work) that will be done by EFCA in the next years

• Questions on approved weighing are not direct mandate for EFCA → should be addressed to DG MARE

• The specific control of weighing is MS responsibility



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## Control of unsorted landings of pelagics Q 8, 9, 10

- Pelagic fishery part of the JDP and of a coordinated approach
- EFCA along with the MS developed guidelines for sampling unsorted pelagic landings
- JDP Specific Action, use of common sampling process to ascertain quantities of HER and SPR
- EFCA organised work with MS to derive compliance indicators and performed dedicated inspections
- The correctness of weighing and species identification is a MS and COM responsibility



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## Risk based assessment and last haul Q 11, 12, 13

- Fisheries segments with higher estimates of illegal discards will consequently have a higher risk non-compliance with the LO.
- The risk is assessed as a combination of the likelihood and the impact of each fleet segment.
  - Impact: combination on the level of catches and the status of the exploited stocks
  - Likelihood on non-compliance with LO: level of illegal discards
  - Risk assessment is made at fleet segment level, not at vessel level.
- Control activities (including LH) and specific actions of the JDP are focused on segments with higher risks
- LH are not just conducted to obtain data on unwanted catches, it is a routine procedure that it should be done during all inspections at sea
- In 2019 the BS JDP Introduce element of getting more data on GN to confirm risk level of these segment. Previous data indicate high PLE discards.



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## Risk based assessment and last haul Q 14

- **Publication of LH inspections data**

- LH are performed by MS inspectors and it is up to MS to decide if this data can be disclosed
- Results of LH analysis for risk assessment purposes published by EFCA each year in Annual Report
- Results of future compliance evaluation where LH is used will be also published in the EFCA website as decided by BALT FISH



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## Technical measures Q 15

- EFCA does not establish the regulations for gears and attachments permitted
- EFCA promotes common understandings among member states of the provisions in force
- Current Technical measures regulation resulted in the revocation of many of the implementing rules as regards the configuration of gears and attachments
- This is expected to be rectified with the adoption of implementing rules by the Commission
- EFCA does not offer interpretations of legislation
- MS will guide on their application of the regulations in force
- EFCA will promote BALT FISH and COM to come together with BSAC to clarify these questions
- Most of the questions should be addressed by DG MARE



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## Environment policy and control of emissions from vessels Q 16

- EMSA is the EU agency dealing with environmental issues in the marine area.
- EFCA may provide the contact at EMSA to inquire about the elements raised



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## Eel fisheries Q 17 - 20

- ELE were introduced in the JDP in 2019
- Specific action on ELE fisheries in the BS JDP
  - Follows the regional risk assessment results and a dedicated workshop in August 2020.
  - Focused on identify illegal gear (e.g., no authorisation and no marks, tag and identifier) and on compliance with the seasonal closure.
- MS will make the inspections in accordance with the legislation in place, the difference is that there will now be a coordinated approach in line with all JDP activity.



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## Salmon fisheries Q 21, 22

- Traps for salmon have a survivability exemption to the LO
- SAL has been part of the work with MS in the Baltic since the beginning of the JDP
- Specific actions:
  - Based on regional risk assessment results
  - Misreporting of SAL as TRS
  - Non-compliance with seasonal closures
- MS are responsible for the control. A coordinated approach through the JDP allows the MS to focus on the fishery in their territory with the added element of cooperation with their neighbors and transparency regarding the results.



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## Recreational fisheries Q 23, 24

- Specific action on COD recreational fisheries:
  - Dedicated workshop in August 2020.
  - Focus on bag limit on COD in SD 22 - 24 during closure + restriction within 6 nautical miles in SD 24
- Difficulties:
  - Management of the activity as it is outside of traditional control activity on commercial fisheries
  - Vessels are not necessarily registered, and may be targeting other fish than COD → difficult to focus the control activity.
- Control effort by MS high with considerable inspections both ashore and at sea.
- Some suspected infringements detected for exceeding the bag limit.
- Experience gained during this year's action will allow for collecting better data, for the development of a more precise strategy, and for the selection of more efficient operational measures.
- Refer to BALTFISH to discuss the follow up of these issues.



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