

BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2024

The BSAC recommends setting the catch levels for the Baltic stocks in 2024 at the values indicated in the table below. For divergent positions, a list of members subscribing to the specific minority position is indicated as a footnote. For all stocks, the recommendations are formulated and agreed after careful consideration of the scientific advice.

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2024 ¹		COM proposal (% change from 2023 TAC)	AGRFISH Council decision (% change from 2023 TAC)	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2024	BSAC minority positions TAC 2024
Cod SDs 22-24	24 t (commercial and recreational catches) (-97% compared to previous advice)	Precautionary approach	136 t (bycatch TAC) (-72%)	340 t (bycatch TAC) (-30%)	Bycatch TAC 489 t (roll-over of 2023 TAC) to allow other fisheries to continue. Additional recreational catches limited to 1 bag	<p>Due to the degraded state of the stock and high uncertainties some members of the OIG² cannot provide a quantitative catch recommendation, but commercial targeted fisheries should remain closed, and all recreational fishing should be prohibited.</p> <p>Bycatch quota of 489t for fishers who use passive gears only³.</p> <p>Recreational fishing opportunities for cod must be preserved⁴</p> <p>Due to the important gaps in ICES assessment and advice, some members</p>

¹ Note that reference is made to ICES headline advice only. More details and nuances may be found in the "Issues relevant for the advice" section of the ICES advice.

² Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), WWF Finland, BalticWaters, Fisheries Secretariat (FishSec)

³ Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE), Darłowska Group of Fish Producers & Shipowners (Darłowska Group), Fishermen's Federation for Small-Scale Fishery in Sweden (SYEF), Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery PO (FSKPO)

⁴ European Anglers Alliance (EAA)

						cannot support any quantitative advice in order not to legitimise it. ⁵
Cod SDs 25-32	0 t (roll-over of the advice)	Precautionary approach	595 t (bycatch TAC) (rollover)	595 t (rollover of 2023 bycatch TAC)	Bycatch TAC 595 t (roll-over of 2023 bycatch TAC) to allow other fisheries to continue	0 t⁶ Bycatch quota of 595 t for fishers who use passive gears only ⁷ Due to the important gaps in ICES assessment and advice, some members cannot support any quantitative advice in order not to legitimise it. ⁸
Plaice SDs 22-32	SD 21-23: 17.254 t SD 24-32: 4.481 t (+ 45% compared to previous advice) SD 22-32: 17.947 t	SD 21-23: MSY approach SD 24-32: MSY approach	11 313 t (rollover)	11,313 t (rollover)	17.947 t	Prioritise protection and recovery of both Baltic cod stocks by setting plaice TAC well below single-stock headline advice and in no event allowing the fishing level to increase ($\leq 7,727$ t) ⁹ 7,727 tonnes (passive gears only) ¹⁰
Herring SDs 30-31	Range 48.824 t - 63.049 t (-21% and -26% compared to previous advice)	EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea	1 000 t (bycatch TAC) (-99%)	55,000 t (-31%)	80.463 t (F_{msy} upper) in view of some signs of positive stock development and in order to avoid too drastic decrease of the TAC	Due to the degraded state of the stock and high uncertainties some members of the OIG ¹¹ cannot provide a quantitative catch recommendation, but fishing pressure should be minimised. 12,610 t (0.2 F_{msy}) ¹²

⁵ National Chamber of Fish Producers, Association of Fishermen of Sea PO

⁶ CCB, WWF Finland, BalticWaters, FishSec, EAA

⁷ LIFE, Darłowska Group, SYEF, FSKPO

⁸ National Chamber of Fish Producers, Association of Fishermen of Sea PO

⁹ CCB, WWF Finland, BalticWaters, FishSec, EAA

¹⁰ LIFE, Darłowska Group, SYEF, FSKPO

¹¹ CCB, WWF Finland, BalticWaters, FishSec, EAA

¹² LIFE, Darłowska Group, SYEF

Herring Gulf of Riga SD 28.1	Range 27.696 t - 41.370 t (-17% compared to previous advice)	EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea	36 514 (-20%)	37,959 t (-17% as compared to 2023 TAC)	37,953 t (calculation for the management area based on MAP F_{MSY})	$\leq 37,959$ t ¹³ 27,696 (F_{MSY} lower) ¹⁴
Herring SDs 25-29, 32, ex GoR	Range 41.706 t – 52.549 t (-41% and -45% compared to previous advice)	EU multiannual plan (MAP)	28 550 t (bycatch EU TAC) (-60%)	40,368 t (-43% as compared to 2023 TAC)	EU TAC of 52,549 t – 9.5% of the Russian share, + 902 t for Gulf of Riga herring to be taken in SD 28.2 and – 2,959 t for Central Baltic herring to be taken in the Gulf of Riga (SD 28.1) = 45,500 (MAP F_{MSY}) In accordance with the MAP F_{MSY} scenario in the ICES advice, allowing for an increase in SSB	Due to the degraded state of the stock and high uncertainties some members of the OIG¹⁵ cannot provide a quantitative catch recommendation, but fishing pressure should be minimised. 35,687 t EU TAC Russian share deducted (F_{MSY} lower) ¹⁶ 116,775 t¹⁷ Due to the important gaps in ICES assessment and advice, some members cannot support any quantitative advice in order not to legitimise it. ¹⁸
Herring SDs 22-24	0 t	MSY approach and precautionary considerations	394 t (bycatch TAC) (-50%)	788 t bycatch TAC (rollover)	F_{2023} corresponding to a TAC of 788 t allowing for an SSB increase	0 t¹⁹ Implement additional measures to protect and restore known spawning habitats and nursery areas, as indicated in the ICES advice. 788 t (passive gears only) ²⁰

¹³ CCB, WWF Finland, FishSec, EAA

¹⁴ LIFE, BalticWaters, Darłowska Group, SYEF

¹⁵ CCB, WWF Finland, BalticWaters, FishSec, EAA

¹⁶ LIFE, Darłowska Group, SYEF

¹⁷ Fish Producers' Organisation Bałtyk

¹⁸ National Chamber of Fish Producers, Association of Fishermen of Sea PO

¹⁹ CCB, WWF Finland, BalticWaters, FishSec, EAA

²⁰ LIFE, Darłowska Group, SYEF, FSKPO

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Sprat SDs 22-32	Range 191 075 t - 247 704 t (+4% and - 3.1% compared to previous advice)	EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea	171 815 t (EU TAC) (-23%)	201,000 t (-10% as compared to 2023 TAC)	247,704 t (F_{msy} upper) EU TAC (-Russian share 10.08%) = 222,735 t Allowing for a SSB increase and taking into account species interaction considerations.	Due to the mixing with the degraded herring stocks in the central Baltic some members of the OIG ²² cannot provide a quantitative catch recommendation, but the TAC should be set below the lower end of the F _{MSY} range (≤ 171,815 t). 62,559 t (50% larger than central Baltic herring) = EU TAC of 56,253 t ²³
Salmon SDs 22-31	ZERO CATCH Total sea catch ≤ 60 000 salmon if confined to existing coastal fisheries in May-August in SD31 (roll-over)	ICES evaluated last year's advice of zero catch and advised according to best scientific advice	53 967 (-15%)	53,967 salmon (-15%)	Do not recommend setting a zero TAC for salmon in the mixed-stock sea fisheries in SDs 22-30.	0 in mixed stock fisheries at sea (22-30); ≤ 56,640 salmon in total catches recreational and commercial combined ²⁴ A bag limit of one salmon (excluding recent spawners) per angler and day for sea anglers south of latitude 59.30 N. ²⁵
Salmon SD 32	11,800 salmon (roll-over of the advice)	Roll over of 2022 advice	10 144 (+7%)	10,144 salmon (+7%)	11,800 salmon	≤ 9,160 salmon ²⁶

²¹ National Chamber of Fish Producers, Association of Fishermen of Sea PO

²² CCB, WWF Finland, BalticWaters, FishSec, EAA

²³ LIFE, Darłowska Group, SYEF

²⁴ CCB, WWF Finland, FishSec

²⁵ EAA

²⁶ CCB, WWF Finland, FishSec, EAA