



Regional Coordination Group
North Atlantic
North Sea & Eastern Arctic



Regional Coordination Group
Baltic

Regional Coordination Group North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic Regional Coordination Group Baltic

RCG NANSEA AND RCG BALTIC REPORT

Part II

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RCG NANSEA AND RCG BALTIC 2023 REPORT - Part II

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Table of decisions and recommendations

ISSG/SG	ID	Year	R or D	Status	Short Description	Action to be taken	Responsible for the action	Deadline	Background for decision or recommendation	Where to find more details	Decision to be taken by NC?	Formulation of the Decision
Enduser and RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_D01	2023	D01	ongoing	NCs approval of the updates for the 'Mandates and Remits' document specifying the roles of RCGs vs. ICES	NCs to approve the updates for the 'Mandates and Remits' document specifying the roles of RCGs vs. ICES	NCs	DM 2023	'RCG Mandates and remits' document should be updated with clarification about the role of RCGs vs. ICES, i.e., ICES has the scientific coordination and RCGs has the decision making process and coordination of resources among MS.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.1.1, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter I ISSG End-users and RCGs.	YES	Do NCs approve the updates for the 'Mandates and Remits' document specifying the roles of RCGs vs. ICES
Enduser and RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R01	2023	R01	ongoing	Recommendation to ICES WGRDBESGOV to consider how ICES can take over the outputs created by ISSG RDB Overviews for ICES (WGs, Benchmarks).	Recommendation to ICES WGRDBESGOV to consider how ICES can take over the outputs created by ISSG RDB Overviews for ICES (WGs, Benchmarks).	ICES WGRDBESGOV	By the end of 2023	The RCG ISSG RDB catch, effort and sampling overviews currently produce outputs for ICES working groups. The overviews made for ICES WGBFAS can be seen as a test case. RCGs have access to EU MS data only. The main focus of the ISSG products is the regional coordination. It should be discussed with ICES how overviews and scripts developed can be taken over by ICES.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.1.1, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter I ISSG End-users and RCGs.	NO	

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RCG	NANSEA_BALTIC_2023_R02	2023	R02	ongoing	The RCG recommends that when giving new legislative proposals on fisheries control, the European Commission takes into account that adequate estimation of bycatch rates to meet the conservation objectives of the CFP, requires adequate monitoring of PETS incidental bycatch, adequate data on fishing effort, as well as adequate monitoring of PETS species abundance and distribution. The proposals from the European Commission should include the enforcement for all fishing vessels to report in the relevant catch documents all events of incidental bycatch of PETS, and obligation and enforcement to report fishing effort variables listed in EU-MAP Table 6, in a manner that allows for adequate estimation of fishing effort (see ICES WGBYC reports).	In line with the Data Collection Framework, the RCG will focus on actions under development, which are CFP and EU MAP compliant, e.g.: the improvement of the PETS incidental bycatch monitoring through the identification of high-risk fisheries to be prioritized in monitoring; as well as other agreements (made through the RWP) which improve data monitoring accuracy. Adequate estimation of bycatch rates to meet the conservation objectives of the CFP, requires adequate monitoring of PETS incidental bycatch, adequate data on fishing effort, as well as adequate monitoring of PETS species abundance and distribution.	COM	TM 2024	EU COM published in February 2023 the communication “EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries”. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries COM/2023/102 final https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0102	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.1.2	NO	

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RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R03	2023	R03	ongoing	It is recommended that the WGRDBESGOV and ICES Secretariat work together to find funding to include recreational and diadromous data into the RDBES and make an FDI conversion module and FDI data table export module for FDI data and other tasks on 'RDBES functionalities prioritised'	It is recommended that the WGRDBESGOV and ICES Secretariat work together to find funding to include recreational and diadromous data into the RDBES and make an FDI conversion module and FDI data table export module for FDI data and other tasks on 'RDBES functionalities prioritised'	ICES WGRDBESGOV, ICES Secretariat	By the end of 2023	The ICES Secretariat funded development of the RDBES is ending. There is a list of RDBES functionalities that have not been developed yet and are prioritised. It is important to find funding, if the RDBES development pace should stay at the same level.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.2.2	NO	
RDB Overviews	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R04	2023	R04	ongoing	Request commercial landings and effort data from 2019-2023 in the 2024 RDBES data call	Request commercial landings and effort data from 2019-2023 in the 2024 RDBES data call	ICES WGRDBESGOV	March 2024	ISSG RDB Overviews plan to produce multiannual overviews. 5 years of data (2019-2023) could constitute a good option. The request for historical data could start to be done already in 2024.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.2.3, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 2 SSG RDB Catch, Effort and Sampling Overviews.	NO	
Surveys	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_D02	2023	D02	ongoing	Renewal costsharing agreements for WHB survey (IBWSS).	To decide on renewal of the cost-sharing agreement for the WHB survey.	NCs (DK, DE, ES, FR, IR, NL, SE)	Prior to the survey 2024.	The current cost-sharing agreement for the WHB survey will terminate at the end of 2023. Renewal of the agreement is foreseen.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.2.5, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 5 Surveys	YES	Do NCs agree to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IBWSS survey for 2024?

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Surveys	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_D03	2023	D03	ongoing	Renewal costsharing agreements for IESNS survey (ASH).	To decide on renewal of the cost-sharing agreement for the ASH survey.	NCs (DK, DE, IR, NL, SE)	Prior to the survey 2024.	The current cost-sharing agreement for the ASH survey will terminate at the end of 2023. Renewal of the agreements is foreseen.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.2.5, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 5 Surveys	YES	Do NCs agree to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IESNS survey for 2024?
Surveys	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R05	2023	R05	ongoing	Recommendation to the Commission to provide solutions for continuation of scientific monitoring in spatially restricted zones.	Provide guidance on the tools to be used to ensure the continuation of scientific monitoring in spatially restricted zones	DG MARE	TM 2024	Provide guidance on the tools to be used to ensure the continuation of scientific monitoring in spatially restricted zones, i.e. through licensing, Natura management, etc. This could include the emphasis on scientific monitoring that is required under legal obligations (i.e. mandatory surveys in the EU MAP) and may include exceptions for specific survey types. Apart from this, experimental and ad-hoc research can be considered as well.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.2.5, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 5 Surveys	NO	
EMT	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R06	2023	R06	ongoing	Each MS to assign at least one expert to participate in ISSG EMT and appoint an additional chair.	Each MS to assign at least one expert to participate in ISSG EMT.	NCs	By the end of September 2023	Initiatives on developing and using new electronic monitoring technologies, machinelearning software and other technologies are going on in several MS. In order to ensure that information on the initiatives disseminated and made available for the DCF community the ISSG for EMT recommend that all MS within the remit of the RCG Baltic and NANSEA are ensuring their representation in the ISSG of an expert working with new electronic monitoring technologies. In order to make the work of the ISSG EMT most efficient	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.2.6, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 4 ISSG Electronic Monitoring Technologies.	NO	

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									two chairs to the lead of the ISSG are needed. At present Gildas Glemarec, DTU Aqua, Denmark has been elected as chair. The ISSG recommend an additional chair is found as soon as possible.			
Regional work plan	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_D04	2023	D04	ongoing	MS to agree on all Agreements and commitments contained in the Draft RWP Baltic.	To read the proposed Draft RWP Baltic and be aware of the agreements and commitments or amend or delay until further details.	NCs (DK, EE, FI, DE, LV, LT, PL, SE)	DM 2023	All agreements and commitments listed in the RWP are issued from RCG/ISSGs and were agreed in TM 2023. If NCs are uncomfortable with any agreements and commitments reported in the RWP, then it must be further developed to clarify the issue. The agreement and commitments stated in the RWP must then reflect the work to be undertaken and the timeframe.	Draft RWPs to be found at ICES Sharepoint: More details are to be found in the different ISSG reports (Part III)	YES	Do NCs agree on all Agreements and commitments contained in the Draft RWP Baltic?
Regional work plan	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_D05	2023	D05	ongoing	MS to agree on all Agreements and commitments contained in the Draft RWP NANSEA.	To read the proposed Draft RWP NANSEA and be aware of the agreements and commitments or amend or delay until further details.	NCs (SE, EE, BE, ES, DE, DK, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT)	DM 2023	All agreements and commitments listed in the RWP are issued from RCG/ISSGs and were agreed in TM 2023. If NCs are uncomfortable with any agreements and commitments reported in the RWP, then it must be further developed to clarify the issue. The agreement and commitments stated in the RWP must then reflect the work to be undertaken and the timeframe.	Draft RWPs to be found at ICES Sharepoint: More details are to be found in the different ISSG reports (Part III)	YES	Do NCs agree on all Agreements and commitments contained in the Draft RWP NANSEA?

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CS pelagic freezer trawler NEA	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R07	2023	R07	ongoing	Identify and conduct two pilot studies in 2023/2024, one by NLD and one by DEU, for sampling EU pelagic freezer trawler fleet.	Identify and conduct two pilot studies in 2023/2024 (one by NLD and one by DEU) and further harmonize protocol for sampling EU pelagic freezer trawler fleet in dialogue with the NLD and DEU NC	NCs (DE, NL)	TM 2024	The pilot study executed and analysed in 2022/2023 showed promising results. However, it focussed on only one species*area combination of the European pelagic freezer trawler fleet. In order to extend to the entire fleet, a common practically feasible protocol for all species*area combinations needs to be developed and tested.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.4.3, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 9 ISSG Case Study Freezer Trawler Fleet Exploiting Pelagic Fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic.	NO	
Diadromous	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R08	2023	R08	ongoing	Ensure funding availability for data base development and storage solution on ICES servers.	Ensure funding availability for data base development and storage solution on ICES servers.	COM	TM 2024	Currently, no unified solution to host the mandatory data for diadromous species collected by member states in line with DCF exists. WGNAS and WGEEL have developed own databases, that comprise data beyond DCF collected data and are currently not compatible with RBDEs data structure.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.4.6, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 13 ISSG Diadromous Species.	NO	
Diadromous	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R09	2023	R09	ongoing	Store and host all DCF-collected mandatory data on central ICES databases for better organization and accessibility for end users	Store and host all DCF- collected mandatory data on central ICES databases for better organization and accessibility for end users	WGRD BESGO V	TM 2024	Currently, no unified solution to host the mandatory data for diadromous species collected by member states in line with DCF exists. WGNAS and WGEEL have developed own databases, that comprise data beyond DCF collected data and are currently not compatible with RBDEs data structure.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.4.6, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 13 ISSG Diadromous Species.	NO	

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Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R10	2023	R10	ongoing	MS participating in IBTS to incorporate not only stomach sampling but also stomach content analysis in the national work plans	MS participating in IBTS to incorporate not only stomach sampling but also stomach content analysis in the national work plans	NCs (DE, DK, FR, NL, SE)	TM 2024	So far only the sampling of the stomachs has been incorporated into the national work plans of MS, and the incorporation of the analyses of the stomach contents into the work plans of the relevant MS would significantly advance the regionally coordinated stomach sampling plan in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.4.8, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART III Chapter 15 Regionally Coordinated Stomach Sampling	NO	
RCGs Secretariat	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R11	2023	R11	ongoing	All MS to include the text about the long-term funding of the Secretariat under Textbox I.B. Other collection activities in their national work plans.	All MS to include the text about the long-term funding of the Secretariat under Textbox I.B. Other collection activities in their national work plans.	NCs	End of October 2023	Currently, in some MS the implementation of a long term (financial) scenario for RCG supporting services is a difficult process as it is not clear to some national administrations how to motivate the eligibility of the funds under the EMFAF national budget. To support the MS to explain to their respective administration, it is recommended that all MS include the text in the National Work Plans, where it is clearly stated what is the link between these services and the support of the RCG work.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.5.3	NO	
ISSGs 2023-2024	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_D06	2023	D06	ongoing	Agree on proposed ISSGs to work during season 2023-2024 and ensure that experts and manpower is assigned to ISSG work.	The list of RCG ISSGs suggested by RCG NANS&EA and RCG Baltic to be confirmed to take place during season 2023-2024	NCs	DM 2023	Work in ISSG needs experts and manpower (approximately 1 week of work / ISSG and person). The ISSG work forces the MS to switch from working with a national focus to work with a more regional focus which is in line with idea of EU-MAP.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2023 Report PART I section 5.5.6	YES	Do NCs agree on the list of ISSG for season 2023-2024 and ensure that experts and manpower is assigned to ISSG work?

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Surveys	NANSEA 2020_2020_R06	2020	R06	ongoing	Revision of the survey effort and coverage of the IBWSS	RCG NA NS&EA recommends ICES WGIPS to review the survey effort and coverage of the IBWSS and evaluate the impact of a 10% and 20% reduction in survey effort by Ireland and The Netherlands on the data quality of the survey indices. ICES to add this request to the ToRs of WGIPS for their work programme 2021; WGIPS to review and to summarise the results of their evaluation for the RCG NA NS&EA technical meeting in June 2021.	ICES WGIPS	01/06/2021	Since the 2017 implementation of the DCF recast, the participation by MS to surveys based on TAC shares has become mandatory for surveys listed in the EU-MAP. Currently, two surveys are subject to cost-sharing; the International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas (IESNS, also known as ASH) and the International Blue Whiting Spawning Stock survey (IBWSS). The EU part of the IBWSS is being carried out by Ireland and The Netherlands. As part of a multilateral agreement, Denmark, Germany, France and the United Kingdom contribute to the ship time cost with financial contributions proportional to their relative TAC share. Since 2019, Spain is also contributing ship time to the survey, however this is outside the multilateral agreement. The IBWSS will continue to be a mandatory survey under the new EU-MAP from 2022 onwards. In order to develop new task sharing agreements for the IBWSS including cost contributions under the next EMFAF programme, the RCG NA NS&EA recommends an evaluation of the current EU survey effort including the effect of the additional survey effort by Spain since 2019 and the impact of a potential reduction of survey effort by Ireland and Netherlands by 10% and 20%, respectively.	RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2020 Report PART I section 5.4.1.1 (cost sharing agreements)	NO	

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RDB overviews	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R01	2022	R01	ongoing	ICES give download rights of RDB/RDBES data to ISSG chairs for the ISSG work	ICES give download rights of RDB/RDBES data to ISSG chairs for the ISSG work	ICES	DM 2022	At the moment RCG has not download rights and ISSG chairs have to do a request to ICES everytime they need the data. Direct access will increase the efficiency of ISSG work, which is especially relevant given the short deadlines ISSG has to prepare the overviews. *LDF also wants to give this recommendation (need for coordination)	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART I section 5.2.1, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART III Chapter 2 ISSG RDB Catch, Effort and Sampling Overviews	NO	
SSF	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R04	2022	R04	ongoing	Implement the collection of additional variables needed for SSF effort estimates in the control regulation.	COM to contact Control Regulation colleagues.	DG MARE / MSs	By the end of September 2022	Information collected from the control regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009) named as transversal data (logbooks, sales notes, Vessel Monitoring System etc.) is one of the main source of information used also for scientific purposes. However, in the case of the SSF, due to the exemptions that these fleet have in the current regulation, there are shortcomings that make it difficult to have a good understanding of the activity of this fleet. This is particularly the case for the vessels below 10m LOA, where filling logbooks is not mandatory etc. Some minimum information should be considered as mandatory considering management needs for scientist.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART I section 5.4.5, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART III Chapter 10 Evaluation of the Data Collected for SSF at EU level	NO	

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PETS	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R05	2022	R05	ongoing	Implement the collection of additional variables needed for bycatch estimates in the control regulation.	COM to contact with Control Regulation colleagues.	DG MARE / MSs	By the end of September 2022	Information collected from the control regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009) named as transversal data (logbooks, sales notes, Vessel Monitoring System etc.) is one of the main source of information used also for scientific purposes. However, in the case of the data needed for PETS bycatch-related advice, the information collected is not sufficient. Some needed fields are not mandatory to be provided in logbooks etc. For passive gears, soak time, number of nets, hooks, traps are essential information to provide sound PETS bycatch rates. It is necessary to make these fields mandatory in the logbooks for all fleet segments.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART I section 5.4.6, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART III Chapter I I Identification of Case Studies for PETS Bycatch Monitoring	NO	
PETS	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R06	2022	R06	ongoing	Provide prioritization of PETS species list.	DGENV to prioritize PETS to be sampled by region.	DG ENV	By the end of September 2022	It is essential that there is prioritisation when sampling PETS for each of the regions. The PETS ISSG is working on possible coordinated sampling programmes at the regional level to start developing a specific plan to present to each of the MS. The priority should be decided by the COM to respond to the needs they have.	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART I section 5.4.6, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART III Chapter I I Identification of Case Studies for PETS Bycatch Monitoring	NO	

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Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R07	2022	R07	ongoing	Participation in the regional stomach analysis program.	MS should map the laboratory capacity and staffing situation in their own country and come to a decision on whether they can or want to process the samples in their own country, or whether they want to send them out. The aim is to prepare firm agreements for the RWP period 2025-2027.	NCs	DM 2022	The regionally coordinated stomach sampling case study in the North Sea has started in the first quarter 2022. Approximately 2 000 Stomach samples have been collected and a similar number of samples will be sampled during the third quarter IBTS 2022. All samples are stored in the freezers of the IBTS participating countries. In order to establish this as a coordinated stomach sampling program, the stomachs have to be analysed and made available to the relevant ICES working groups (e.g. WGSAM, WGNSSK).	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART I section 5.4.9, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART III Chapter 14 Regionally Coordinated Stomach Sampling	NO	
Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R08	2022	R08	ongoing	MS to evaluate options and capacities of national labs to become analysis hub for the collected IBTS case study stomachs.	MS to indicate if national lab can serve as stomach analysis hub for the collected IBTS stomachs. If so, MS to indicate the "exact" capacities and corresponding costs of stomachs to be analysed annually. The aim is to prepare firm agreements for the RWP period 2025-2027.	NCs	DM 2022	The regionally coordinated stomach sampling case study in the North Sea has started in the first quarter 2022. Approximately 2 000 Stomach samples have been collected and a similar number of samples will be sampled during the third quarter IBTS 2022. All samples are stored in the freezers of the IBTS participating countries. In order to establish this as a coordinated stomach sampling program, the stomachs have to be analysed and made available to the relevant ICES working groups (e.g. WGSAM, WGNSSK).	RCG NANSEA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART I section 5.4.9, RCG NA NS&EA RCG Baltic 2022 Report PART III Chapter 14 Regionally Coordinated Stomach Sampling	NO	