



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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Table of decisions and recommendations

ISSG/SG	ID (auto, just drag)	Year	RCG	R or D	Status	Short Description	Action to be taken	Responsible for the action	Deadline	Background for decision or recommendation	Decision to be taken by NC?	Formulation of the Decision
Enduser and RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R01	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R01	ongoing	The RCG NSEA & Baltic recommends that all MS collect genetic samples from spawning (running) cod in the southern North Sea (4b, 4c) and the channel 7d, in spring 2025. The collection could be conducted from IBTS, BTS or other relevant scientific survey program as well as from observer programs if possible.	All MS collect genetic samples from spawning (running) cod in the southern North Sea (4b, 4c) and the channel 7d, in spring 2025. The collection could be conducted from IBTS, BTS or other relevant scientific survey program as well as from observer programs if possible.	NCs	spring 2025	The aim of this sampling is to make best use of resources (both at sea and in the lab) and therefore only sample and analyse samples that are expected to help improving the stock assessment and advice on the Cod in Subarea 4, divisions 6.a and 7.d, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, eastern English Channel, and Skagerrak). The project EMFAF-2023-PIA-FisheriesScientificAdvice GenDC has been funded and signed in May 2024. The project duration is 2 years. The project aim is to improve stock assessments and sustainable management of marine fisheries, specifically cod, through integrated genetic data collection.	NO	

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RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R02	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R02	ongoing	The RCG recommends NC to use the markdown script developed by WGRDBESGOV to quality check their data and give feedback to the WGRDBESGOV in November.	National Institutes to use the R markdown script for data quality checking developed by WGRDBESGOV and to give feedback to the WGRDBESGOV in November.	NCs	November 2024	High-quality data is essential for effective provision of scientific advice, as it ensures that the information used is precise, comprehensive, and trustworthy. Maintaining data quality involves regular data cleansing, validation, and verification processes to remove inaccuracies and standardize data formats. The WGRDBESGOV ISSG on data quality was tasked to develop a plan to integrate a quality procedure in the RDBES process. One of the steps of checking the quality of the data is to run the R markdown script developed by the WGRDBESGOV ISSG.	NO	
RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R03	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R03	ongoing	The RCG recommends that ICES WGCATCH, WGBYC review the template developed by the RCG to document the methodology and data sources used to populate the calculated RDBES fields in the commercial landings and effort files and provide feedback.	ICES WGCATCH, WGBYC review the template developed by the RCG to document the methodology and data sources used to populate the calculated RDBES fields in the commercial landings and effort files and provide feedback.	ICES WGCA TCH, ICES WGBYC	November 2024	The ISSG on Metier and transversal variables have prepared a template to document the methodology and data sources used to fill in calculated fields of CL and CE files. This type of document is already requested in other data calls (e.g. FDI National Chapters) and it is considered very relevant for end users (e.g. it can be very useful to know more about how the effort data for gillnets is calculated)	NO	

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RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R04	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R04	ongoing	NCs to put resources in the development of the estimates using RDBES data and also to start filling the FDI fields in the RDBES data model.	NCs to put resources of the national Institutes in the development of the estimates using RDBES data and also to start filling the FDI fields in the RDBES data model.	NCs	ASAP	The conversion module from RDBES to FDI is a priority for the Commission, however, the group discussed that the RDBES is not ready for this development yet. In order to answer the FDI requests for biological variables, the estimates (number at length, number at age, discards, etc) have to be calculated, and this is not expected to be ready before 2027.	NO	
RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R05	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R05	ongoing	Commission to set up a Workshop for NCs to clarify data confidentiality concepts and find the best solution for the RDBES Data License.	Commission to set up a Workshop for NCs to clarify data confidentiality concepts and find the best solution for the RDBES Data License.	COM	2024	The RDBES data license has been simplified and aligned with other Data Calls and data types. All countries agree that scientific bodies need to be able to use the data in a disaggregated way, but they diverge in the rules proposed for data publication. Some countries remind that they are not allowed to submit the data if the national confidentiality rules are not ensured. NC need security in this issue. Additionally, there is a need to distinguish between non-sensitive (e.g. age, length) and sensitive (e.g. by-catch, discards) sampling data.	NO	

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Surveys	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_D01	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	D01	ongoing	Renewal costsharing agreements for WHB survey 2025 (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 2024. Renewal of the agreement is foreseen.	YES	Do NCs agree to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IBWSS survey for 2025?
Surveys	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_D02	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	D02	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 2024. Renewal of the agreements is foreseen.	YES	Do NCs agree to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IESNS survey for 2025?
EMT	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R06	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R06	ongoing	RCG recommends ICES to organise in 2024/2025 a workshop to establish the needs in terms of data acquisition, storing, and sharing for developing and implementing AI to review data from electronic monitoring (EM) sources, and particularly to complement data collection onboard RV with EM.	ICES to organise in 2024/2025 a workshop to establish the needs in terms of data acquisition, storing, and sharing for developing and implementing AI to review data from electronic monitoring (EM) sources, and particularly to complement data collection onboard RV with EM.	ICES	2025	In the RCG there is an interest to initiate partnerships between fisheries institutes to complement data collection onboard RV with EM and start collecting and labelling imagery data of catches to train detection/classification open-access or shared models that would be beneficial to all. It was agreed that a workshop could be organised by ICES in the coming year to kick start this work in the NANSEA and Baltic regions.	NO	

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RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R07	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R07	ongoing	RCG NANSEA and Baltic would like to ask the survey groups (EOSG) if benthic VME species are sampled according to the survey protocol and if a species ID manual exist for the area (maybe national). Please forward the materials to ISSG Survey chairs.	RCG NANSEA and Baltic would like to ask the survey groups (EOSG) if benthic VME species are sampled according to the a survey protocol and if a species ID manual exist for the area (maybe national). Please forward the materials to ISSG Survey chairs.	ICES EOSG	2025	EU Member States are obliged to sample benthic/invertebrate vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) species according to the EU MAP (EU – 2021/1167 paragraph 4.1). To ensure a standardised sampling protocol within the same region the RCG NANSEA and Baltic would like to ask the survey groups if benthic VME species are sampled according to the survey protocol and if a species ID manual exist for the area (maybe national).	NO	
RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R08	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R08	ongoing	When control regulation Implementation Act is being reviewed, RCGs should be consulted when discussing the current Annexes X and XI, and article 22.	When control regulation Implementation Act is being reviewed, RCGs should be consulted when discussing the current Annexes X and XI, and article 22.	COM	ASAP	The revision of the control regulation 1224/2009 concluded 5 years after the initial Commission proposal in 2018 and entered into force in January 2024. The next step is the implementation with some provisions applying immediately, other provisions after 6 months, 2 years and 4 years or in 2029/2030.		

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RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R09	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R09	ongoing	RCG recommends to establish a dialogue between the COM (DGMARE and DGENV) and Member States about the expectations from the Marine Action Plan and what is possible under the DCF.	To establish a dialogue between the COM (DGMARE and DGENV) and Member States about the expectations from the Marine Action Plan and what is possible under the DCF.	COM	ASAP	The EU Action Plan for protecting and restoring marine ecosystems aims to connect the environmental and fisheries policies to contribute to the delivery on the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy, as well as current obligations under both fisheries and environmental legislation. There is a need for a dialogue between the COM (DGMARE and DGENV) and Member States about what could be a possible compromise between what the Commission expects from Member States and what the Member States are able to implement.		
Regional work plan	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_D03	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	D03	ongoing	MS to agree to start working on the development of RWPs 2028-2030	MS to start working on the development of RWPs 2028-2030	NCs	DM 2024	A roadmap for developing the RWP 2028-2030 is going to be developed in relation to all ISSGs contributing to RWPs. A plenary meeting of the ISSG will be scheduled after the submission of the NWP 2025-2027 to start planning the activities and their timelines. The main goal of this meeting will be to clarify achievements needed for TM June 2025 and TM June 2026 to meet the deadline of October 2026	YES	Do NCs agree to start working on the development of RWPs 2028-2030?

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Regional work plan	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R10	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R10	ongoing	MS to add lines in NWP (2025-2027) Table 2.1 for additional species that are not in Table I (EU 2021/1167) but identified by end user needs e.g. sardine 7e, loligo 4, 7d, pollack 4, 3a	MS to add lines in NWP (2025-2027) Table 2.1 for additional species that are not in Table I (EU 2021/1167) but identified by end user needs e.g. sardine 7e, loligo 4, 7d, pollack 4, 3a	NCs	October 2024	The TM considered the demands for addition or split of stocks emanating from the MS feedbacks, due to unavoidable evolution of targeted species and/or management areas for some species, departing from the list given in Table I of the EU-MAP Delegated Decision (EU 2021/1167). There was a consensus to consider acceptable that Table 2.1 proposed by the RCGs may drift away from the Table I of the EU Regulation if fully justified by end-users. It was the opinion of the TM that further work should be carried out to formally list these additions and/or modifications of management areas before modifying the entries of the Table 2.1.	NO	

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Regional work plan	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_RI1	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R11	ongoing	For species identified in the RWP exceeding the 25% threshold rule (eg cod in the Baltic and plaice in 4,7d), all MS contributing to the catches should a) indicate "Y" for coverage for length sampling and biological variables in table 2.1 in the NWP and make every effort to ensure sufficient sampling for end user needs (including ad-hoc sampling).	For species identified in the RWP exceeding the 25% threshold rule (eg cod in the Baltic and plaice in 4,7d), all MS contributing to the catches should a) indicate "Y" for coverage for length sampling and biological variables in table 2.1 in the NWP and make every effort to ensure sufficient sampling for end user needs (including ad-hoc sampling).	NCs	October 2024	Following the thresholds for data collection specified in the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168, where the collective 25 % threshold of TAC shares that are less than 10 % of the Union total is reached, the Member States concerned shall share tasks relating to the collection of biological data at marine region level to ensure that the relevant stocks are covered by sampling in accordance with end-user needs.	NO	
CS small pelagic Baltic	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_RI2	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R12	ongoing	Recommendation for RCG and ICES to write a joint support letter that will be sent from ICES to NCs to achieve access for MS to control data, which should then take contact to national control agencies to obtain access to control data that can support MS in submitting scientifically adjusted landings weights for RDBES ICES WGs.	Recommendation for ICES and RCG to write a joint support letter that will be sent from ICES to NCs to achieve access for MS to control data which should then take contact to national control agencies to obtain access to control data that can support MS in submitting scientifically adjusted landings weights for RDBES ICES WGs.	ICES	2024	There has been several rapports on misreporting between sprat and herring in the Baltic Sea, it has however not been straightforward for MS to get access to the control data behind the reports. It was during the technical meeting decided to write a support letter from the RCG NANSEA& Baltic and ICES to the national authorities on providing assess to control data for the national scientist conducting the data upload to ICES.	NO	

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CS small pelagic Baltic	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_RI3	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R13	ongoing	RCG recommends that both the scientific landings and official landings to be mandatory in the RDBES format.	Both the scientific landings and official landings should be recommended to be mandatory in the RDBES format.	ICES WGRD BESGO V	2025	MS could report official and scientific landings in RDBES and explain difference, and that both the scientific landings are official landings should be recommended to be mandatory.	NO	
CS pelagic freezer trawler NEA	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_RI4	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R14	ongoing	Identify and conduct two pilot studies in the 2nd half of 2024 conducted by both NLD and DEU for the same species*area combination.	Identify and conduct two pilot studies in the 2nd half of 2024 conducted by both NLD and DEU for the same species*area combination.	NCs (DE, NL)	2024	Simulation studies have been conducted to investigate annual sampling coverage for a suite of preselected stocks, and a sampling protocol was developed and tested during three pilot studies. The three pilot studies targeting herring (Pilot Study 2022), blue whiting (Pilot Study 2023), both carried out by the Dutch research institute, and mackerel (Pilot Study 2024), carried out by the German institute, indicate the feasibility of executing the developed common harmonized protocol during the observer trips on-board the freezer trawlers. However, the pilot studies also showed that the methodology in processing the age samples was not always practically feasible. In order to extend to the entire fleet, the protocol needs to be further developed and tested.	NO	

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CS pelagic freezer trawler NEA	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_RI5	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R15	ongoing	In order to ensure a smooth transition in catch sampling for assessment purposes by the NLD, it is recommended that the NLD market sampling programme executing its current protocol runs simultaneously with the NLD observer programme executing the harmonized protocol for sampling the EU freezer trawler fleet for a substantial period of time.	NLD market sampling programme executing its current protocol runs simultaneously with the NLD observer programme executing the harmonized protocol for sampling the EU freezer trawler fleet for a substantial period of time.	NCs (NL)	2024	In order to ensure a smooth transition in catch sampling for assessment purposes by the NLD, it is recommended that the NLD market sampling programme executing its current protocol runs simultaneously with the NLD observer programme executing the harmonized protocol for sampling the EU freezer trawler fleet for a substantial period of time.	NO	
Diadromous	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_RI6	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R16	ongoing	In the context of diadromous fishes data collection, RCG recommends ICES to include DCF-related matters in the general terms of reference of the relevant ICES EGs (WGEEL, WGBAST, WGNAS).	ICES to include DCF-related matters in the general terms of reference of the relevant ICES EGs related to diadromous fishes (WGEEL, WGBAST, WGNAS).	ICES	2025	In the context of the development of regional work plans, which aims to establish regionally harmonized approaches to data collection for supra-regional assessment, it became apparent that ICES end-users cannot be easily consulted by DCF coordination groups, as ICES working groups have clear rules of procedure and take over their tasks from ACOM or their respective clients (e.g. NASCO).	NO	

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Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R17	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R17	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)	October 2024	So far only the sampling of the stomachs have been incorporated into the national work plans for most 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.	NO	
Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R18	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R18	ongoing	RCG recommends starting sampling gastro-intestinal tracts of all turbot caught during BITS survey.	WGBIFS to include sampling gastro-intestinal tracts of all turbot caught during BITS survey.	ICES WGBIFS	2025	Turbot is a relatively rare, piscivorous flatfish species. It is a data limited stock without a quota. The species occurs regularly, though rarely in the BITS catches. The feeding ecology in the Baltic Sea is largely unknown.	NO	
Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_R19	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	R19	ongoing	RCG recommends that Baltic NCs assign experts to the ISSG 'Stomach sampling' to work on a regional plan for stomachs sampling and analysis in the Baltic	Baltic NCs assign experts to the ISSG 'Stomach sampling' to work on a regional plan for stomachs sampling and analysis in the Baltic	NCs (DK, EE, FI, DE, LV, LT, PL, SE)	2024	Region-wide coordination of stomach sampling is relevant only for piscivorous fish species. In the Baltic Sea this mainly comprises the fish species cod, whiting, turbot, brill, salmon, and sea trout. Potential end users of such data in the Baltic region are WGSAM and WGECOBAL.	NO	

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NC	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_D04	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	D04	ongoing	To collectively cover the total MS contribution to the total costs of the RCG Secretariat in 2024-2025	To collectively cover the total MS contribution to the total costs of the RCG Secretariat in 2024-2025	NCs	DM 2024	The ISSG NC met during the 2024 RCG ECON and 2024 RCG NANSEA Baltic technical meetings to work on the agreement on cost-sharing and to formulate a decision to cover MS contribution to the total cost of the RCG Secretariat in 2024-2025. The decision will be based on the text of the agreement drafted in Annex III of the RCG NANSEA Baltic TM Report Part I.	YES	Do NCs agree to collectively cover the total MS contribution to the total costs of the RCG Secretariat in 2024-2025?
ISSGs 2024-2025	NANSEA BALTIC_2024_D05	2024	NANSEA BALTIC	D05	ongoing	Agree on proposed ISSGs to work during season 2024-2025 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 2024-2025	NCs	DM 2024	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 EU-MAP.	YES	Do NCs agree on the list of ISSG for season 2024-2025 and ensure that experts and manpower is assigned to ISSG work?

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RDB overviews	NANSEA BALTIC_2022_R01	2022	NANSEA BALTIC	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)	NO	
Enduser and RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R01	2023	NANSEA BALTIC	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.	NO	

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Surveys	NANSEA BALTIC_2023_R05	2023	NANSEA BALTIC	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	NO	