

Estonian fisheries control action program for the Baltic Sea in 2011

Pursuant to [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1098/2007](#) Article 24 and [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1224/2009](#) Article 46 Environmental Inspectorate of Estonia (hereinafter EI) has defined Estonian national control action program for the Baltic Sea in 2011.

According to the Estonian domestic Fisheries Act adopted 27.09.1995 EI and the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) have the comprehensive responsibility in the field of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance in Estonia, which has been divided between different bodies as described in Table 1.

NAME OF THE AUTHORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
Ministry of Agriculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collection of commercial fishing data2. Quota management3. Management of Fisheries Information System on commercial fisheries and keeping it updated4. Cross-check between log books, landings and first sales
Environmental Inspectorate	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inspection and surveillance2. Enforcement and follow-up to infringements3. Operating VMS4. Collection of prior notifications and effort reports5. Cross-check of log books, landings and first sales, VMS and prior notifications

Table 1

Regarding to the cross-check of log books, landings and first sales which is covered by two authorities then different approaches are applied in this subject field. While Ministry of Agriculture applies cross-check for general data analysis, Environmental Inspectorate uses it on case-based studies.

To achieve the best results, above-mentioned authorities operate in full collaboration with [Police and Border Guard](#), [Veterinary and Food Board](#), [Maritime Administration](#), [Tax and Customs Board](#) and all other relevant authorities.

MEANS OF CONTROL

Human resources

Shore based inspectors: 26

Sea-going inspectors: 19

The deployment of inspectors shall be carried out in full compliance with [Joint Deployment Plan Baltic Sea 2011](#) established December 17th 2010 by the decision No 2010/030 of the executive director of the Community Fisheries Control Agency. National inspectors not active in joint inspections carry out fisheries surveillance, control and inspection in waters under Estonian jurisdiction and Estonian ports, thereat paying special attention to the fisheries and landings of cod.

Technical resources

For 2011 Estonia has the possibility to use the following type of aircraft and patrol vessels for the monitoring, control and surveillance activities at sea:

Aircraft: Helicopter: Enstrom 480B; AW-139

Airplane: L-410, Cessna 172R

Patrol vessels: KATI; KÕU; MARU; PIKKER; VALVAS; VALVE; VAPPER

Other resources: 13 boats

14 cars

Financial resources

Budget of the human resources: 579 500 €

Budget of the technical resources: 309 200 €

Total budget: 888 700 €

ELECTRONIC RECORDING AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION RELATING TO FISHING ACTIVITIES

It is not possible for fishing vessels to report the information required in the logbook to the competent authority by electronic means yet, but Electronic logbooks are under development and expected to be operational on vessels more than 15 m length overall in summer 2011. Thereof until that time all fishing vessels have still the obligation to send their filled logbook sheets twice a month or during 48 hours after finishing the fishing trip to the Ministry of Agriculture.

All fishing vessels in length more than 15 m flying Estonian flag and fishing vessels flying the flag of some other Member States in Estonian EEZ are monitored by Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) located in the central unit of the EI. As that FMC responsible for receiving reports and recording of information relating fishing activity, is not operational 24/7, then EI has organized a 24-hour contact point for prior notifications. That contact point is also responsible for receiving effort reports described in Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 Article 13 and can be communicated by the following contacts:

E-mail: 1313@rescue.ee

Tel: 00 372 633 1313

Fax: 00 372 628 7459

All prior notifications shall be transmitted to our contact point according to the Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 Article 17 and 18. Pursuant to our domestic legislation fishing vessels are obliged to transmit a prior notification of entry into port and total catches retained on board at least 2 hours in advance of arrival.

The effort reports shall be transmitted pursuant to the Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 Article 13.

After receiving any notification above-mentioned contact point enters this information to the database that can be accessed via the internet by all the inspectors and relevant authorities. Furthermore, on their request regional inspectors will be informed by SMS of the relevant prior

notifications swiftly after the contact point has received it.

In event of fishing vessel intends to land in some other EU Member State port then regarding to prior notification, it is obliged to follow the rules of Council Regulation 1224/2009 Articles 17 and 18.

For the implementation of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 Article 14, stipulating monitoring and control of fishing effort in respect of limits and restrictions of fishing, the activities of the fishing vessels are cross-checked regularly by the FMC.

DESIGNATION OF PORTS

According to the Environmental Minister's 07.01.2008 Regulation No 3 "Designated ports for landing Baltic Sea cod catches in Republic of Estonia" the vessels which have retained on board more than 750 kilograms of cod live weight are allowed to land exclusively at under mentioned designated ports:

Name of port	Region
Meeruse	Harju
Miiduranna	Harju
Paldiski Põhja-sadam	Harju
Kalana	Hiiu
Lehtma	Hiiu
Suursadama	Hiiu
Pärnu	Pärnu
Mõntu	Saare
Nasva	Saare
Roomassaare	Saare
Veere	Saare

ENTRY INTO AND EXIT FROM SPECIFIC AREAS

To the supplement Council Regulation No (EC) 1098/2007 Article 16 no domestic regulation or supplementing measure has been adopted.

LANDING CONTROL

It is mandatory for all fishing vessels to have a fishing logbook on board at all the time during the fishing trip. In regard to fishing vessels in length more than 15 m, all fisheries inspectors are able to cross-check logbook data by the VMS data. In addition to that information of fishing licenses and permits can be received from the Fisheries Database.

During every inspection inspectors have to analyze and estimate visually the need of sampling. In the event of doubts that percentage of fish or quantities by species do not match, a sampling must be taken. In purpose to determine the composition of sprat and herring at least 3 samples, each exceeding 3 kg-s, from different part of the total catches, must be taken. Not less than 5 % of landings must be sampled.

As the main fishing grounds for cod are far from Estonian ports the landings exceeding 300 kg are really rare, in the period from 2008 to 2010 there has only been one such landing.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Approximately 10 minutes in advance of the inspection at sea, master of the fishing vessel will be informed about that. After prior notice to the Master, he has to enable the safe boarding and later safe disembarkment of inspectors and facilitate the work of inspectors in every possible way. During inspection all documentation, fishing gear, fish size, quantities of fish by species and catch composition is to be inspected and verified. Cooperation with other Member States is coordinated through central office of EI.

No specific procedures have been agreed for communicating with the competent authorities of other relevant Member States. Starting from 2009 Estonia and all the other EU Member States of Eastern Baltic Sea allow if necessary, direct international communication between fisheries control regional administrations and relevant central units to achieve the best possible results. In the framework of Joint Deployment Plan Baltic Sea 2011 the agreements among relevant Member States and the CFCA on technical operational procedures will be followed.

Joint surveillance and exchange of inspectors, including specification of powers and authority of inspectors operating in other relevant Member States' waters will be in compliance with the Joint Deployment Plan agreed by all relevant Member States. Currently the campaign schedule has been agreed for the first half of 2011. In addition to JDP more joint surveillance activities can be foreseen with other relevant Member States.

SPECIFIC INSPECTION BENCHMARKS

Inspection in port	Inspections shall cover not less than 50% of all cod landings. One of the benchmarks of port inspections is to focus more on periods and ports where cod landings of Estonian fishing vessels take place.
Inspection of marketing	There are no auctions where cod from the Baltic Sea is offered for sale in Estonia. The documentation of fish in general stores and shops is inspected regularly.
Inspection at sea	Sea inspections are carried out in compliance with JDP Baltic Sea 2011
Aerial surveillance	Regularly in Estonian EEZ

LIST OF ESTONIAN VESSELS AUTHORISED TO FISH COD IN THE BALTIC SEA IN 2011

Such list is established by the Ministry of Agriculture and can be found [here](#).