



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
NC	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_D01	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	D01		Renewal cost/staff sharing agreements for WHB survey 2026 (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 2025.	The current cost-sharing agreement for the WHB survey will terminate at the end of 2025. Renewal of the agreement is foreseen.	YES	Do NCs agree to sign a cost/staff sharing agreement for the IBWSS survey for 2026?
NC	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_D02	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	D02		Renewal cost/staff sharing agreements for IESNS survey 2026 (ASH).	To decide on renewal of the cost-sharing agreement for the ASH survey.	NCs (DK, DE, IR, NL, SE)	Prior to the survey 2025.	The current cost-sharing agreement for the ASH survey will terminate at the end of 2025. Renewal of the agreements is foreseen.	YES	Do NCs agree to sign a cost/staff sharing agreement for the IESNS survey for 2026?
RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_D03	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	D03		Agree on proposed ISSGs to work during season 2025-2026 and ensure that experts and manpower are 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 2025-2026	NCs	DM 2025	Work in ISSG needs experts and manpower (approximately 1 week of work / ISSG and person). The ISSG work has a regional focus which is in line with EU-MAP.	YES	Do NCs agree on the list of ISSG for season 2025-2026 and ensure that experts and manpower is assigned to ISSG work?

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RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R01	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R01		Recommendation to ICES (ACOM) in preparation of RWP 2028-2030 to request for all AWG in 2026 to make an overview of data used for stock assessment, similar to overview of already prepared by WGNSSK in 2024. A dialogue should be established in 2025 between ICES and RCG on the information needed. These overviews to be forwarded to RCG chairs. The ISSG end-user will bring it to the technical meeting in 2026-2027.	Recommendation for ICES Assessment Working Groups to make overviews of data used for stock assessment. A dialogue should be established in 2025 between ICES and RCG on the information needed. The overviews should be forwarded to the RCG chairs.	ICES secretariat	End of May 2026	For RCG work on development of Regional Work Plans 2028-2030 and to be able to prioritize DCF work at national and regional level, information is needed on the data use, and ICES AWGs are main end-users.	NO	RCG
RCG	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R02	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R02		Recommendation to add to the NWP/RWP/AR Annex I.I the following questions: 'Was there an effort to optimize the sampling design and sampling protocols?' 'Documentation of efforts to optimize the sampling design and sampling protocols'	COM to add these questions to the NWP/RWP/AR Annex I templates.	COM	Beginning of 2026	During the RCG TM optimization of sampling was discussed, it this was identified as a suggestion to promote optimization	NO	RCG



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Métier and transversal	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R03	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R03		The RCG NANSEA & Baltic recommends that MS are requested to document methodologies applied to calculate fishing activity estimates to inform RDBES CE and CL tables, using the suggested template in the RDBES data call 2026.	ICES WGRDBESGOV to mention this request in the RDBES data call 2026, and MS to fill the template and send it to RCG chairs.	ICES WGRDBESGOV, MS	January 2026	When MS submit effort and landings data for RDBES, methods are applied for processing data into this format. It is important that this is documented for understanding the data for users, and to highlight any differences. The RCG ISSG on Metier and transversal variables will evaluate the documentation of methodologies applied to inform RDBES CE & CL tables, i.e. collect and analyze the templates provided by countries (in answer to the RDBES 2026 data call), to document MS methods used to estimate fishing activity data for RDBES CE & CL tables	NO	Métier and transversal



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ETP species sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R04	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R04		Recommendation for ICES WGBYC to conduct in 2025 a preliminary analysis regarding the integration of ETP species data into the RDBES. The analysis should include a comparison between data submitted for the WGBYC data call and the RDBES data call. This is to clarify if all data that are currently requested in the WGBYC data call are also submitted to the RDBES.	ICES WGBYC to conduct in 2025 a preliminary analysis regarding the integration of ETP species data into the RDBES. The analysis should include a comparison between data submitted for the WGBYC data call and the RDBES data call.	ICES WGBYC	End of 2025	This recommendation is following up on the ICES WGPETSAMP3 to RCG on sufficient sampling for better monitoring of high bycatch risk fisheries (ICES_2024_003), recommendation on coordination of sampling plans (ICES_2024_004) and recommendation on data quality procedures in sampling programmes ETP species (ICES_20204_005). In order for the RCG ISSGs to get an overview of sampling and evaluate the sampling level, it is necessary to make sure that all relevant sampling are uploaded to RDBES.	NO	ETP species sampling
Diadromous	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R05	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R05		Recommendation to add "Provide information on potential data needs for the EU regional workplans, in relation to DCF data collection" as recurring ToR for WGNAS and WGBAST (and ensure it stays in the ToRs for WGEEEL).	Add to the resolutions of WGNAS and WGBAST the ToR "Provide information on potential data needs for the EU regional workplans, in relation to DCF data collection", to ensure optimal and relevant data sampling.	ICES Secretariat	2026	For the RCG and ISSG Diadromous to optimize the regional sampling plans, feedback on end-user needs are necessary.		Diadromous



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Recreational fisheries	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R06	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R06		Recommendation that catches of Baltic plaice from the recreational fisheries are included in the DCF data collection	MS with recreational fisheries in the Baltic to deliver data on total catch of Baltic plaice.	NCs from DNK, SWE and DEU.	2026	Data have been sampled for landings of plaice from recreational fisheries in the Baltic Sea by Germany. It will be tested to include these data in the ICES stock assessment of Baltic plaice and reviewed in 2026. It is recommended that Denmark and Sweden deliver data on total catch of Baltic plaice caught in the recreational fishery.	NO	Recreational
Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R07	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R07		ICES WGBIFS to report back to the RCG NANSEA & BALTIC on the result of the evaluation of the new sampling strategy.	Report to the RCG NANSEA & BALTIC on the result of the evaluation of the new sampling strategy.	ICES WGBIFS chairs	RCG TM 2026	An alternative stomach sampling strategy will be tested during Baltic International Trawl Survey (BITS) in quarter 4 2025 and in quarter 1 2026 and the results will be evaluated subsequently by ICES WGBIFS.	NO	Stomach sampling
Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R08	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R08		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, MS	RCG TM 2026	The stomachs are being sampled according to the regionally coordinated stomach sampling plan in the North Sea and the sampling of the stomachs has been included in the national work plans of the MS. However, collecting the stomachs is meaningless without analysing the contents, so MS should allocate financial resources to the analysis and incorporate it into the national work plans.	NO	Stomach sampling



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Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R09	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R09		MS participating in IBTS and sampling and analysing stomach contents to upload the resulting data to the ICES stomach data base.	MS participating in IBTS and sampling and analysing stomach contents to upload the resulting data to the ICES stomach data base.	NCs, MS	RCG TM 2026	The stomachs are being sampled according to the regionally coordinated stomach sampling plan in the North Sea and the sampling of the stomachs has been included in the national work plans of the MS. However, collecting the stomachs is meaningless without analysing the contents, and uploading the data to the ICES stomach data base would greatly facilitate enduser access. MS should allocate financial resources to the analysis as well as the data processing, and incorporate it into the national work plans.	NO	Stomach sampling
Stomach sampling	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R10	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R10		Request for MS to upload historic stomach sampling data that has not previously been uploaded to the ICES stomach database.	Request for MS to upload historic stomach sampling data that has not previously been uploaded to the ICES stomach database.	NCs, MS	RCG TM 2026	Data from national and international sampling programmes and projects lie unused in the databases of the national institutes. To improve the various ecosystem models and improve the knowledge on predator-prey relationships, it would be beneficial if these were uploaded to the ICES stomach database.	NO	Stomach sampling
RWP	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R11	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R11		The RCG NANSEA & Baltic recommends to COM that the format of RWP 2028-2030 will be based on the format used in RWP 2025-2027	COM to keep the format used for RWP 2025-2027 for upcoming RWP 2028-2030	COM	October 2026	During the RCG TM, it was agreed that it would be preferable to keep the format used for RWP 2025-2027	NO	RWP



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RWP	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_D04	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	D04		NCs to ensure time allocation and funding for participation of ISSG chairs, RCG chairs and NCs to participate in a physical RWP 2028-2030 meeting in January or February 2026.	NCs to ensure time allocation and funding for participation of ISSG chairs, RCG chairs and NCs to participate in a physical RWP 2028-2030 meeting in January or February 2026.	NCs	2026	To enhance the input of the ISSG to the different topics of the RWPs 2028-2030, a physical meeting will be arranged in the beginning of 2026.	YES	RWP
NC	NANSEA BALTIC_2025_R12	2025	NANSEA BALTIC	R12		ICES to streamline all data calls through one channel, as ICES is the requester (not an individual). This will enhance follow-up actions, registration of data submission, data security, and allow for review under the DTMT procedures between ICES and the Commission.	ICES to streamline all data calls through one channel, as ICES is the requester (not an individual). This will enhance follow-up actions, registration of data submission, data security, and allow for review under the DTMT procedures between ICES and the Commission.	ICES secretariat	End of 2026	ICES have formalized most data calls ensuring follow-up, data security and traceability of the request and data submission. However, still some data calls are sent out by working group chairs - this process is neither transparent nor considered binding, and data are sent to e.g., the working group chair email. RCG strongly encourages that all data calls are sent out officially through the ICES secretariat.	NO	NC

