

# Estonian fisheries control action program for the Baltic Sea cod, sprat, herring and salmon in 2021

Pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 2016/1139 and to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 Article 46 and Council Regulation (EC) No 2018/1986, the Estonian Environmental Board (hereinafter EB) has defined Estonian national control action program for the Baltic Sea cod, sprat, herring and salmon in 2021.

According to the [Estonian National Fishing Act](#), adopted 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015, the Estonian Environmental Board, the Agriculture and Food Board, and the Ministry of Rural Affairs have 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
<a href="#">Estonian Environmental Board</a>	1. Inspection and surveillance 2. Enforcement and follow-up to infringements, including assignment of penalty points 3. Operating VMS 4. Collection of prior notifications from vessels not involved in electronic reporting or in the event of the break-down of the system 5. Cross-check of data on fishing activities, landings, take-over and first sales, VMS and prior notifications
<a href="#">Agriculture and Food Board</a>	1. Collection of commercial fishing data 2. Management of the Electronic Recording and Reporting System 3. Quota management 4. Cross-check of data on fishing activities, landings, take-over and first sales, VMS and prior notifications
<a href="#">Ministry of Rural Affairs</a>	1. Management of Fisheries Information System on commercial fisheries and keeping it updated

Table 1.

The Agriculture and Food Board as the collector and manager of commercial fisheries data is conducting general cross-checks between catch, landing and first sales data. The results of these cross-checks are shared with the Environmental Board. Inspectors of Environmental Board also conduct cross-checks on the basis of individual cases (inspections or proceedings).

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

## MEANS OF CONTROL

### Human resources in 2021

Shore based and sea-going inspectors: 20

The deployment of inspectors shall be carried out in full compliance with The [Joint Deployment Plan Baltic Sea 2021](#) 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, sprat, herring and salmon.

#### **Technical resources**

For 2021 the Environmental Board in cooperation with the Police and Border Guard Board has the possibility to use the following type of aircraft and patrol vessels for the monitoring, control and surveillance activities at sea:

#### **Aircraft:**

Airplane: ES-PKY

**Patrol vessels:** PVL-112 „VALVE“, PVL-103 „PIKKER“, PVL-101 „KURVITS“ and PVL-203 „RAJU“

**Environmental Board other possible resources:** 31 boats (all equipment) - 16 boats at sea

#### **Financial resources for fisheries control tasks:**

Budget of the human resources	939 376, 20 €
Budget of the technical resources (all technique used on the sea)	75 000 €
Special budget for implementation of the Baltic Sea JDP 2021	535 444, 60 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 549 820, 80 €</b>

Table 2.

### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION RELATING TO FISHING ACTIVITIES**

By now, all fishing vessels more than 12m LOA have been provided with the electronic recording and reporting devices.

Estonia participates in the central node project in order to exchange sales notes and logbook data between Member States.

Until electronic message exchange between Member States has become fully operational, the e-mail address for sending prior notifications, landing declarations etc is [ers.haldus@pta.agri.ee](mailto:ers.haldus@pta.agri.ee).

All fishing vessels in length more than 12 m flying Estonian flag and fishing vessels flying the flag of some other Member States in Estonian EEZ are monitored by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) ([fisheries@keskkonnaamet.ee](mailto:fisheries@keskkonnaamet.ee)), located in the central unit of the EB.

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 via ERS. The requirement also applies for the trips where the fishing vessel has not been involved in fishing activities.

As the FMC responsible for receiving reports and recording of information related to the fishing activities, is not operational 24/7, for vessels not involved in electronic reporting or in the event of the break-down of the system, EB operates a 24-hour contact point for prior notifications. That contact point can be communicated by the following contacts: e-mail: [1247@112.ee](mailto:1247@112.ee); phone: +372 600 1247.

All vessels, that experience problems with ERS or are not yet equipped with ERS, shall transmit their prior notifications to the above mentioned contact point.

After receiving any notification the 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 case a 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 18.

## DESIGNATION OF PORTS

According to the Environmental Minister's Regulation No 51 of 25. Nov. 2016 "Designated ports for landing Baltic Sea cod, sprat and herrings catches in Republic of Estonia" the vessels which have retained on board more than 750 kilograms of cod live weight or vessels which have retained on board more than 5000 kilograms of sprat and herring live weight are allowed to land exclusively at the following designated ports.

### COD

Name of port	Region
Kalana	Hiiu
Lehtma	Hiiu
Loksa	Harju
Meeruse	Harju
Miiduranna	Harju
Mõntu	Saare
Nasva	Saare
Paldiski Lõunasadam	Harju
Pärnu	Pärnu
Roomassaare	Saare
Suursadam	Hiiu
Veere	Saare
Virtsu	Lääne

Table 3.

### SPRAT and HERRING

Name of port	Region
Bekkeri	Harju
Dirhami	Lääne
Heltermaa	Hiiu
Jõesadam	Ida-Viru
Kallaste	Saare
Kaunispe	Saare
Kihnu	Pärnu
Kunda	Lääne-Viru
Lahesuu	Harju
Lao	Pärnu

Lehtma	Hiiu
Leppneeme	Harju
Lindi	Pärnu
Liu Väikesadam	Pärnu
Läätsa Paadisadam;	Saare
Manilaiu	Pärnu
Meeruse	Harju
Miiduranna	Harju
Munalaiu	Pärnu
Mõntu	Saare
Narva-Jõesuu	Ida-Viru
Nasva Jõesadam	Saare
Nõva	Lääne
Paldiski Lõunasadam	Harju
Peerni	Pärnu
Puisse Kalasadam	Lääne
Purtse Kalasadam	Ida-Viru
Pärnu	Pärnu
Rannametsa	Pärnu
Ristna	Harju
Rohuküla	Lääne
Roomassaare	Saare
Saaremaa	Saare
Suaru	Pärnu
Sõru	Hiiu
Sõru Väikelaevasadam	Hiiu
Tapurla	Harju
Toila	Ida-Viru
Topu	Lääne
Treimani	Pärnu
Turja	Saare
Vana-Sauga	Pärnu
Varese	Saare
Veere	Saare
Virtsu	Lääne
Virtsu Kalasadam	Lääne
Virtsu Vanasadam	Lääne
Võiste	Pärnu
Westmeri	Lääne

Table 4.

#### **ENTRY INTO AND EXIT FROM SPECIFIC AREAS**

To the supplement national regulation or supplementing measure has not been adopted.

#### **LANDING CONTROL**

All fishing vessels not implementing the electronic reporting and recording must have a fishing

logbook on board at all the time during the fishing trip. In addition to that, information of fishing licenses and authorizations, 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 proportion of sprat and herring, at least 4 (four) samples, each exceeding 5 kg-s, from different part of the total catches, must be taken. The number of samples depends on the quantity of fish to be landed. Until 10 tons – 4 samples; 10 tons to 25 tons – 5 samples; 25 tons to 50 tons – 6 samples; and each additional 25 tons – 1 more sample.

As the main fishing grounds for cod are far from Estonian ports, the landings exceeding 300 kg are really rare. The total quantity of cod landings were 528 kg in 2013, 2539 kg in 2014, 3940 kg in 2015, 1904 kg in 2016 867 kg in 2017, 980 kg in 2018, 1860 kg in 2019, and 1412 kg in 2020. Most of it was caught by the coastal fishermen.

Salmon fishing is actual only in coastal fisheries with passive gears and the control includes also seatrout as the main fishing period coincides with the spawning migration in autumn. Surveillance is mainly focused on rivers and deltas in closed season.

- Weighing the fish

According to the Environmental Minister's Regulation No 4 of 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 “[Additional requirements and methodology for weighing fish on landing](#)”

Under the established regime, the landed fish must be weighed in the port unless landed in a tanker. The master of the fishing vessel shall be responsible for carrying out the weighing.

## **INSPECTION PROCEDURES**

Approximately 10 minutes in advance of the inspection at sea, master of the fishing vessel will be notified. After prior notice to the Master, he has to enable a 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 in this regard is coordinated via central office of EB.

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 2021 the agreements among relevant Member States and the EFCA 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.

## **SPECIFIC INSPECTION BENCHMARKS**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Cod	Inspection of landings	Not less than 20% of the Cod landings to Estonian ports must be inspected.
Herring and sprat	Inspection of landings	Not less than 8% of the pelagic landings to Estonian ports must be inspected.
Salmon	Number of inspector days	250 days of surveillance

Cod, salmon, sprat and herring	Inspection of marketing	Post-landing activities are inspected regularly by the Environmental Board
Cod, herring, sprat and salmon	Inspection at sea	Sea inspections are carried out in compliance with JDP Baltic Sea 2021
Cod, herring, sprat and salmon	Aerial surveillance	In collaboration with Police and Border Guard Board regularly in Estonian EEZ

Table 5.

## **LIST OF ESTONIAN VESSELS AUTHORISED TO FISH COD, SALMON, SPRAT AND HERRING IN THE BALTIC SEA IN 2021**

There are 21 Estonian vessels which are authorized to catch cod. List of Estonian vessels authorized to catch cod is established by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and could be found [here](#).

There are 27 Estonian fishing vessels more than 12m LOA, which are authorized to catch sprat and herring. List of Estonian vessels authorized to catch sprat and herring is established by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and could be found [here](#). Salmon fishing is only actual in coastal fisheries with passive gears.