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**SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (PLEN-
07-02)**

**ADVICE ON CATCHES OF COD IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM 1 OCTOBER 2006 TO 30
SEPTEMBER 2007**

Adopted by correspondence, 7 December 2007

This report does not necessarily reflect the view of the European Commission and in no way anticipates the Commission's future policy in this area

Catches of cod in ICES Subdivisions 27 and 28 of the Baltic Sea

Background

With reference to Article 29¹ of Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing a multi-annual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 779/97, the Commission requested STECF to advise if catches of cod in the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 in Subdivisions 27 and 28.2 were lower than 3% of the total catches in Subdivisions 25 to 28 and if the catches in Subdivision 28.1 were higher than 1.5 % of the total catches in Subdivisions 25 to 28.

STECF response

STECF received catch data from the Commission for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. Information on catches taken by Lithuania and Poland for Subareas 25 and 26 were not available. It was not clear to STECF if the reported data relate to landings only or to total catch of cod (including estimates of discards). However, Lithuania reported that Lithuanian vessels had zero catches, by-catches and discards of cod in Subareas 27 and 28 during the period 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007 and Poland stated clearly that no Polish fishing in Subareas 27 and 28 was reported in 2006 or 2007. The reported data are summarised in Table 1.

Noting the absence of any reported catch data from Poland and Lithuania for Subdivisions 25 and 26 and the lack of clarity on whether the data reported to the Commission represent landings or total catch of cod, the data in Table 1 indicate that between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007, less than 3 % of the reported catches of cod from Subdivisions 25 to 28 were taken in Subdivisions 27 and 28.2 and less than 1.5 % were taken in Subdivision 28.1.

¹ Article 29

ICES Subdivisions 27 and 28

1. Each year, and no later than 31 October, Member States fishing in Area B, shall submit a report of all catches and bycatches of cod taken during the preceding 12 months in Area B as well as the discards of that species specified by ICES Subdivision and by gear types referred to in Article 8(1) to the Commission.
2. Each year, and no later than 15 December, the Commission shall decide in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 30(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 and on the basis of the report from Member States referred to in paragraph 1 and the advice from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries to exclude ICES Subdivisions 27 and/or 28.2 from the restrictions provided for in Article 8(1)(b), (3), (4) and (5) and Article 13 if there is evidence that catches of cod in these ICES Subdivisions are lower than 3 % of the total catches of cod in Area B.
3. The exclusion of ICES Subdivisions 27 and/or 28.2 shall take effect from 1 January to 31 December of the following year.
4. Article 8(1)(b), (3), (4) and (5) shall not apply to ICES Subdivision 28.1. However, if there is evidence that catches of cod are higher than 1,5 % of the total catches of cod in Area B, Article 8(1)(b), (3), (4) and (5) shall apply and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article are applicable.

Table 1. Baltic Sea cod: Reported catches in kg by country and Subdivision for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007.

| Country | Subdiv 25 | Subdiv 26 | Subdiv 27 | Subdiv 28.1 | Subdiv 28.2 | Subdiv 28 | Total |
|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Estonia | 840,992 | 21,525 | 0 | 271 | 51 | 322 | 862,839 |
| Denmark | 5,684,929 | 125,406 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,810,335 |
| Finland | 646,404 | 96,821 | 0 | 0 | 5,426 | 5,426 | 748,651 |
| Germany | 1,546,255 | 1,832 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,548,087 |
| Latvia | 1,480,342 | 2,649,651 | 0 | 0 | 218,675 | 218,675 | 4,348,668 |
| Lithuania | n.a. | n.a. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. |
| Poland | n.a. | n.a. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.a. |
| Sweden | 10,117,429 | 61,094 | 104,651 | n.a. | n.a. | 11,737 | 10,294,911 |
| Total | 20,316,351 | 2,956,329 | 104,651 | 271 | 51 | 236,160 | 23,613,491 |

n.a. not available