



**SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)
OPINION BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

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**Evaluation of cod catches in ICES
Subdivisions 27 and 28 of the Baltic Sea**

NOVEMBER 2008, WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Evaluation of cod catches in ICES Subdivisions 27 and 28 of the Baltic Sea

NOVEMBER 2008

Introduction

STECF met at the MAI – Maison des Associations Internationales, Brussels, from 3 to 7 November 2008 for its 29th plenary meeting.

Amongst other terms of reference STECF was requested to advice on cod catches in ICES Subdivisions 27 and 28 of the Baltic Sea. STECF was unable to address this request since the data required was not submitted in due time by the relevant member States and it was decided that STECF should deal with this request by written procedure after the plenary meeting.

Background

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, requires

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.

the Commission to decide on an annual basis about the application of the fishing effort management limits defined in Article 8 of the same regulation in Subdivisions 27, 28.1 and 28.2.

Terms of References

The Commission requests STECF to advise if catches of cod in the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 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 all member States fishing in the Baltic. It was not clear to STECF if the reported data relate to landings only or to total catch of cod (including estimates of discards). The reported data are summarised in Table 1.

Noting 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 2007 and 30 September 2008, 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.

Table 1. Baltic Sea cod: Reported catches in kg by country and Subdivision for the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Country	Subdiv 25	Subdiv 26	Subdiv 27	Subdiv 28.1	Subdiv 28.2	Subdiv 28	Total
Estonia	893,819	22,197	0	406	908	1,314	917,330
Denmark	6,583,100	65,796	0	0	0	0	6,648,896
Finland	622,906	46,810	0	0	1,125	1,125	670,841
Germany	2,189,447	0	0	0	0	0	2,189,447
Latvia	2,003	2,001	0	n.a.	n.a.	240	4,244
Lithuania	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14,100	n.a.	n.a.
Poland	5,103,247	3,117,791	0	0	0	0	8,221,038
Sweden	7,469,948	11,803	93,378	0	17,650	0	7,592,779
Total	22,864,470	3,266,398	93,378	406	33,783	2,679	26,244,575

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Abstract

The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries gave its opinion by written procedure in November 2008 on a request by the European Commission for advice on cod catches in ICES Subdivisions 27 and 28 of the Baltic Sea.

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