

Annex 2

"REQUEST"

Item 3 BACOMA.

Consequently, I am sending you our first formal e-mail for a quote and time schedule related to the non-recurrent part of the MoU signed between the DG Mare and ICES.

Terms of Reference for a scientific request to ICES on: "Ways to improve selectivity in Baltic cod fisheries for which cod is recognised as target species"

Background: The Commission presented to Council, in January 2009, a report on selectivity for trawl fisheries for cod in the Baltic. The main conclusion of the report is that there is no data to support big differences in selectivity between the two gears Bacoma and T90°. Several member states have requested the Commission to continue assessing new ways to increase selectivity in the Baltic cod fisheries, to reduce current levels of discards, such as an increase in mesh sizes. The Commission believes there is scope for increased selectivity and envisages more and alternative ways than simple mesh size increase.

Request: ICES should have to deal with the questions below. The deadline to deliver should be no later than 29/5/2009.

1. For metiers using towed gears in the Baltic Cod fisheries,
 - What are the current L_0 , L_{100} and L_{50} (length of first catch; length corresponding to the maximum level of vulnerability; length corresponding to a vulnerability representing 50 % of the maximum one) related to selectivity ogives already evaluated for towed gears used by those metiers in such fisheries.
 - 1 By considering a similar exploitation pattern to this currently observed, what would be the L_{50} that would maximise yield per recruit?
 - 2 By taking into account similar selectivity ogives to those already evaluated for towed gears in the Baltic cod fisheries, what should the L_{50} be to eliminate (or to reduce to very low levels – *wouldn't we have to specify such levels ?*) catches of cod below the Minimum Landing Size (38cm) ?
 - 3 For each of the above two L_{50} s, describe:
 - a. What would be the expected evolution to be observed in yields in the short and in the long terms?
 - b. What necessary gear adaptations (especially changes, for bacoma and T90, in mesh size and/or codend design) might be suggested ?
 - What alternative technical measures (e.g. spatial and/or temporal distribution of the fishing effort) should be introduced to reduce discards?
2. The same questions shall apply for metiers using static gears in the Baltic Cod fisheries (e.g. gill nets with their correspondent parameters).

We would be you thankful both if you could tell us if ICES will be able to deliver such an advice according to the deadline already specified and if you could send us a quote related to such an advice.

If you need more information or some clarification on the ToRs, don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
Patrick.

Patrick DANIEL

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