

Monitoring of cetaceans and PETS species bycatch in pelagic trawl fishery in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga.

Information on cetaceans and endangered species bycatch in pelagic trawl fishing in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga is collected in accordance with European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of June 20, 2019, on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures.

For this purpose, a competition is held annually to determine the contractor responsible for conducting the monitoring. The contractor ensures the execution of monitoring, which is carried out by independent observers participating in fishing trips. In cases where observer participation in selected trips is not possible, there are specific situations where information can be collected by one of the team members.

The observer, when inspecting fishing activities (mandatory gear haul inspection), records information in the "Cetacean Observation Log" (Figure 1). In addition to the current information about the fishing activity (vessel, fishing gear, fishing area, time), the observer records information about possible incidental catches of fish, birds, seals, or cetaceans, following the instructions for filling out the "Cetacean Observation Log" (Table 1).

Table 1. Filling out the Cetacean Observation Log.

Nr.	Explanations	Example
1	Ship name (in capital letters), call sign	SĪGA
2	Vessel registration	LVR 1234
3	Captain – name, surname (in capital letters), personal identification number	JĀNIS OZOLIŅŠ, 230561- 12345
4	Ship departure time - day, month, hour, and minutes, port	15/04 10:30 LIEPĀJA
5	Ship return time - day, month, hour, and minutes, port	20/04 21:15 VENTSPILS
6	Fishing gear (three-letter code)	OTM
7	Mesh size – for trawl it is the net's twine size	20
8	Fishing gear size	length
9	Catch - species that make up the majority of the catch must be recorded. It is important to register salmon bycatch with pelagic trawl nets	XXX – many, XX – average, X –few; salmon - n./kg
10	Date of fishing operation (day/month)	15/04
11	Fishing time - start and end (hours/minutes)	10.20/ 11:35
12	Fishing location - economic zone, subarea	Lithuanian ec. zone, 26
13	Coordinates - start and end	LV/57' 16N21'25E
14	ICES subarea/square	28/4441
	Bycatch register	
15	Fish species	3-alpha codes from ASFIS code identificatory

16	Bird species	Number of harvested birds, photos
17	Seals	Number of harvested seals, photos
18	Cetaceans	Species (photo), quantity, length, weight

Nr.		Vaļveidīgo novērošanas žurnāls				Diena, mēnesis, stunda, gads <u>2022</u>							
Kuģa vārds, izsaukuma signāls(1)		Kuģa reģistrācijas Nr.(2)		Kapteiņa vārds, uzvārds, personas kods (3)				Atiešana(4) _____					
_____		_____		_____				Atgriešanās (5)		_____	_____	_____	_____
Zvejas rīks(6)		Linuma acs izmērs (mm) (7)		Zvejas rīku izmērs(8)		Nozvejotās zivju sugas (9) xxx - daudz, xx – vidēji, x - mazs							
_____		_____		_____									
Dat. (10)	Zvejas laiks (11)	Zvejas vieta (12)				Reņģe	Brētliņa	Menca	Plekste	Salaka	Lasis (gab./kg)		
		Koordinātas (13)		Apakšrajons/ICES kvadrāts (14)									
		Sākums											
		Beigas											

Piezveja (zivis, putni, roņi, vaļveidīgie)

Dat. (10)	Zvejas laiks (11)	Zivis (15)		Putni (16)		Roņi (17)		Vaļveidīgie (18)				
		Suga (kods)	kg	suga	eks.	suga	eks.	suga	eks.	dzimums	Garums (cm)	Svars (kg)
Piezīmes:									Novērotājs:	Paraksts	Atšifrējums	Datums:
									Kapteinis:	Paraksts	Atšifrējums	Datums:

Figure 1. Cetacean Observation Log

The monitoring operator compiles information about the conducted monitoring each month and sends the original copies of the "Marine Mammal Observation Journal" to the client, along with copies of the ship's crew logbooks, to ensure the observer's participation in the respective trips. In case endangered species (birds, seals, cetaceans) are observed, the observer performs random bycatch photo documentation. The obtained photos, together with references to the respective "Marine Cetaceans Observation Journal," are sent to bior@bior.lv.