



Zemkopības ministrija

BALTFISH work on supplementing Joint Recommendation (in addition to JR 1 and 2) for the Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise protection measures in the Baltic Sea

Current situation (1)

- On the basis of the ICES advice, in December 2020, BALTFISH regional group submitted to the EC first joint recommendation proposing mitigation measures to reduce incidental catches of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise in the core distribution areas. In September 2021 BALTFISH submitted another joint recommendation with additional area covered by mitigation measures.

Current situation (2)

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/303 of 15 December 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 as regards measures to reduce incidental catches of the resident population of the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea was based on two joint recommendations submitted by BALTFISH.

Current discussions on 3rd Joint Recommendation

- Two BALTFISH Technical Group meetings (in February and March) were held on possible additional safeguard measures outside the core areas covered by previous joint recommendations and Commission Delegated Regulation.
- At the last BALTFISH High Level Group meeting on 23 of March 2022 Member States agreed on further work for possible additional protection measures, however the measures are currently under experts' discussion and could not be clearly identified yet.
- Next steps:
 - Continue work on measures within a Technical Meeting (in April or May 2022);
 - Experts encouraged to evaluate the possibility for development of different measures for different areas (ICES subdivisions) of the Baltic Sea considering data on probability of occurrence of harbour porpoise.

Thank you for your attention!