

**Guidelines to be applied when sampling landings of mixed small pelagics
(HER / SPR) during landing inspections in the Baltic Sea.**

<u>Agreed Guidelines</u> (see footnotes)					
Landing Quantity		Minimum Sample	Further sampling where discrepancies identified¹	Sub-Sample Size²	Distribution
< 20t	→	10kg	100kg	1 x 10kg	Evenly distributed. By weight or timing. Represents stowage.
>20t <100t	→	20kg	100kg	2 x 10kg	
>100t <200t	→	40kg	100kg	4 x 10kg	
>200t	→	40kg	0.5 <i>Promille</i>	4 x 10kg	

Briefing Notes for Inspectors

Quantity of the landing: The sampling guidelines are based on four landing tonnage groups as shown in the table. This recognises that the sampling should be relative to the size of the landing. Decide on what sampling guidelines should be followed based on the tonnage reported in the pre-notification (PNO).

Minimum sample: The minimum quantity sampled from the landing should be between 10 kg to 40 kg, depending on the size of the landing.

Sub-sample size: Inspectors may be flexible within the minimum standards in the table. If it is more appropriate in the circumstances to take more sub-samples of a smaller size, this is OK as long as the minimum for the landing quantity is met. For

¹ A guiding principle rather than a rigid requirement; recognising that some Member States may have operational constraints and in some cases the national methodology may be under review.

² Minimum standard. Agreed that could be split into more sub-samples (i.e. 2 x 5kg = 1 x 10kg, etc.).

example, for a landing of under 20t, it might be considered more appropriate to take two samples of 5kg rather than one sample of 10 kg. This is fine.

What if there are discrepancies and non-compliance? In the case where non-compliance is suspected, or the results of first samples suggest a discrepancy between the reported quantities in the PNO and the inspectors' estimates, further sampling should be done. Guidelines on this were agreed subject to footnote 1 which will affect inspectors from some Member States. In such cases, the inspectors will be fully briefed by their national authorities.

Distribution of the sampling through the landing: Since the goal is to have a representative estimate of the catch composition of the landing, attention should be paid to spreading the sampling appropriately. Inspectors should pay attention to any non-uniform mixing in tanks or containers, and identify where different catches (from different hauls or different areas) may be stowed, which might have different catch compositions from other parts of the landing.

Data recording: Inspectors will be briefed on whether their Member State has dedicated electronic data recording systems or specific templates. Inspectors with no formal data recording format are encouraged to use the Microsoft Excel data recording sheet attached. Where possible, record the full details of the sampling, including the number of sub-samples taken, individual sub-sample results and summary results. JDP *specific actions* will proceed according to procedures agreed between EFCA and the Member States.

Visual inspection: Inspectors should only do this where the landing is of a single species and where stowage in boxes or other containers allows inspectors to easily verify that fact. Visual inspections shall never be recorded or reported as sampling.