

CERTIFIED  
by the Order No. V1-57  
issued on 14 April 2022  
by the Director of the Fisheries Service  
under the Ministry of Agriculture  
of the Republic of Lithuania

**METHODOLOGY FOR DATA COLLECTION ON BYCATCH OF BIRDS,  
MAMMALS AND REPTILES DURING COMMERCIAL FISHING OF THE FISHERIES  
SERVICE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
LITHUANIA**

**SECTION I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Methodology for Data Collection on Bycatch of Birds, Mammals and Reptiles During Commercial Fishing (hereinafter – the Methodology) of the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Fisheries Service) establishes the methods, collection, processing and presentation of data obtained during commercial fishing in the fishing area 27 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

2. This Methodology is intended for experts of the Fisheries Service, appointed as responsible for collection and processing of data on animal bycatch by the Order No. V1/2022-9, issued on 26 January by the Director of the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania ‘Regarding the amendment of the Order No. V1/2011-47, issued on 21 April 2021 by the Director of the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania ‘Regarding the formation of groups to administer and implement project tasks of the ‘data collection’ measure under the EU priority 3 ‘fostering CFP implementation’ of the operational programme of the Lithuanian Fisheries Sector for 2014-2020’ of the project, conducted by the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania’.

3. The concepts, used in the Methodology, are defined in the Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022, the Law on Fisheries of the Republic of Lithuania No. XIV-254, adopted on 15 April 2021, Order No. 3D-94, issued on 12 February 2009 by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania ‘Regarding the certification of the Rules of Commercial Fishing in Marine Waters’, and other legislation.

**SECTION II**

**LEGAL JUSTIFICATION OF THE COLLECTION OF DATA ON ANIMAL  
BYCATCH**

4. The procedure of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 obliges the member states to issue national work plans specifying the data to be collected and the methods of their collection.

5. Data collection methods and quality must suit the established purposes, defined in Article 25 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No. 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 2371/2002 and (EC) No. 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.

6. Subclauses 3.2 and 6.1 of the Lithuanian National Fisheries Data Collection Programme for 2022-2024, certified by the Order No. 3D-184, issued on 16 March 2022 by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania 'Regarding the certification of the Lithuanian National Fisheries Data Collection Programme for 2022-2024' (hereinafter – the Programme);

7. Species subject to the bycatch registration requirements, are listed in the following European Union legislation and international agreements:

7.1. Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022;

7.2. Council Regulation (EC) No. 812/2004 of 26.4.2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending Regulation (EC) No. 88/98;

7.3. Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds;

7.4. Regulation (EU) 2016/2336 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the north-east Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the north-east Atlantic and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 2347/2002;

7.5. Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No. 1967/2006, (EC) No. 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No. 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No. 2549/2000, (EC) No. 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No. 2187/2005.

## **SECTION III**

### **COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF FISHING EFFORT DATA**

8. Economic entities of fishing, engaged fishing in marine waters, provide the information, related to fishing, to the Fisheries Service in accordance with the terms and conditions, established in the legislation. Fishing activities are registered in physical or electronic fishing logs.

9. The procedure for entering fishing data into electronic fishing logs and their transfer to the Fisheries Service is established by the Order No. V1-120 'Regarding the certification of the introduction and use of electronic fishing logs', issued on 10 December 2020 by the Director of the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. The procedure applies to fishing vessels of the Republic of Lithuania of an overall length of 12 metres or more.

10. Economic entities, registered in the Republic of Lithuania, engaged in fishing activities with fishing vessels of an overall length of 8 metres or more and which are not subject to the demand to fill out and submit fishing log data, transshipment declarations and landing declarations electronically, must fill out a paper fishing log in accordance with the procedure, established in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.

11. The standard log for vessels under 8 metres has been certified by the Order No. 3D-94 'Regarding the certification of the rules of commercial fishing in marine waters', issued by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania on 12 February 2009.

12. Electronic data is analysed, verified and certified by responsible employees of the Fisheries Service. Physical log data is manually entered into the subsystem – Fisheries Data Information System (hereinafter – FDIS) – of the Lithuanian Agricultural and Food Products Market Information System. All data is accumulated in the FDIS.

## **SECTION IV**

### **REGISTRATION OF DATA ON ANIMAL BYCATCH**

13. Important aspects to consider during the registration of animal bycatch:

13.1. To check if there are no entangled or trapped animals in the fishing gear before the gear is pulled out of the water and the catch is poured on deck or into the hold;

13.2. To monitor the conveyor belts at the fish sorting and processing premises for other animals, indicated in the legislation, listed in the Section 3;

13.3. In case of unwanted bycatch, to conduct a detailed analysis according to the procedure, described in the animal bycatch data collection protocols (Annex 1);

13.4. All information, related to animal bycatch, must be provided in paper logs based on the standard form, established in the Rules of Commercial Fishing in Marine Waters, certified by the Order No. 3D-94 issued by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania on 12 February 2009. Vessels fishing in the open sea can report animal bycatch in electronic logs by editing effort notes.

## **SECTION V**

### **ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATISTICAL AND PERSONAL DATA**

14. The Fisheries Service is obliged to accumulate, store and process data, submitted by economic entities, in accordance with the procedure, established by the law.

15. The data is stored at the data centre in accordance with the procedure, established by the law.

16. Collecting, processing, analysing and submitting the data to the final users, the Fisheries Service ensures confidentiality of the data, submitted by fishing vessels, as defined by the following legislation:

16.1. Regulation (EU) No. 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008;

16.2. Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation);

16.3. Law on Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Lithuania;

16.4. Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities;

16.5. Order No. 3D-707 'Regarding the certification of the fisheries data provision', issued on 4 August 2010 by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania.

17. Employees of the Fisheries Service, processing personal data, must protect the secret of personal data if this personal data is not intended to be published. This duty also applies upon leaving the civil service, transfer to another position or at the end of the employment relationship.

## **SECTION VI**

### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

18. The data collected based on a data call, is provided to such expert groups as the International Council for Marine Research (ICES), Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) and other subjects. The inquiry must always indicate the term and method of data provision. The data is submitted via the ICES data platform at <https://bycatch.ices.dk/login.aspx>, which is accessible only to registered users.

19. The data in the FDIS data base is generated according to the fishing effort aggregation form (Annex 2), bycatch effort aggregation form (Annex 3) and bycatch cases aggregation form (Annex 4).

20. The data accumulated is also used for the annual Data Collection Programme Activity Report, submitted by established terms to the coordinator of the Data Collection Programme – the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. The report consists of various tables and text, the structure of which is established in the guidelines, provided by the European Commission.

21. In case of changes in the legislation, listed in this methodology, the provisions of the amendments of the said legislation applies.

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## ANIMAL BYCATCH DATA COLLECTION PROTOCOLS

### **Birds:**

Alive: 1. Establish the species, based on external features;  
2. Take a picture;  
3. Check if the bird has a leg ring;  
4. Set it free.

Dead: 1. Establish the species, based on external features;  
2. Take a picture;  
3. Check if the bird has a leg ring;

### **Mammals:**

Alive: 1. Establish the species, based on external features;  
2. Take a picture;  
3. Set it free.

Dead: 1. Establish the species, based on external features;  
2. Take a picture;  
3. Measure the length;

### **Reptiles:**

Alive: 1. Establish the species, based on external features;  
2. Take a picture;  
3. Set it free.

Dead: 1. Establish the species, based on external features;  
2. Take a picture;  
3. Measure the length;

Dead animals must be disposed of in accordance with the Order No. 3D-162 'Regarding the certification of the rules of state assistance in the disposal and destruction of animal by-products not intended for human consumption', issued on 13 April 2007 by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, or other ways, based on circumstances.

**FISHING EFFORT AGGREGATION FORM**

Year	Month	Quarter	Region type	Region code	Fishing level 3	Fishing level 4	Fishing level 5	Vessel length group, m	Days of fishing in the sea	Number of trips	Total net length, km	Total net casting time, h	Trawling number	Total trawling time, h

Fishing level 3: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1497>  
Fishing level 4: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1498>  
Fishing level 5: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1499>

**BYCATCH EFFORT AGGREGATION FORM**

Year	Month	Quarter	Region type	Region code	Fishing level 3	Fishing level 4	Fishing level 5	Vessel length group, m	Days of fishing in the sea	Number of trips	Monitoring protocol (animal category)	Method of receiving data	Number of trips monitored	Number of days monitored

Fishing level 3: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1497>  
Fishing level 4: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1498>  
Fishing level 5: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1499>

**BYCATCH CASES AGGREGATION FORM**

Year	Month	Quarter	Region type	Region code	Fishing level 3	Fishing level 4	Fishing level 5	Vessel length group, m	Days of fishing in the sea	Number of trips	Monitoring protocol (animal category)	Method of receiving data	Title of species	Number of individuals (pcs) in fishing gear with deterrent	Number of individuals (pcs) in fishing gear without a deterrent	Number of cases (pcs) in fishing gear with deterrent	Number of cases (pcs) in fishing gear without a deterrent

Fishing level 3: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1497>

Fishing level 4: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1498>

Fishing level 5: <http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1499>