

Updated on 29 January 2021

Action plan, linked to the 2019 fleet report, to address structural imbalances in the German fishing fleet under Article 22(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy

Article 22(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy requires the Member States to put in place measures to adjust the fishing capacity of their fleet to their fishing opportunities over time, taking into account trends and based on best scientific advice, with the objective of achieving a stable and enduring balance between them. In order to achieve that objective, Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 requires the Member States to draw up an annual report on the balance between the fishing capacity of their fleets and their fishing opportunities.

The 2019 report on the balance between the fishing capacity and fishing opportunities of the German fleet shows that for certain fleet segments there are notable divergences in some indicator values. In accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the indicators used are based on Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities (Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council COM(2014) 545 final of 2.9.2014).

In particular, a significant decline is reported in cod stocks across the Baltic Sea and in herring stocks in the western Baltic, which are the most important stocks for German fishers. Accordingly, while the catch quota for cod in ICES areas 22-24 was still some 75% of the 2016 level in 2019, it dropped to just around 30% in 2020. For the 2021 fishing year the total allowable catch for western cod increased slightly to 853 tonnes, a 5% increase compared to 2020. In 2019 the herring quota was still around 34% of the 2016 level, but in 2020 it dropped to a mere 12%. For 2021 the quota for this stock has been reduced by a further 50%, a drastic cut that brings it down to 869 tonnes. The causes of the decline in stocks are mainly overfishing due to total allowable catches being set too high, as well as changing environmental conditions owing to climate change. The German cod quota in the eastern Baltic has collapsed to a mere by-catch of 54 tonnes for 2021.

According to fisheries research assessments, cod fishers in the western and eastern Baltic and herring fishers in the western Baltic cannot expect any substantial improvement in fishing opportunities in the foreseeable future. In the eastern Baltic it can be assumed that there will be no opportunities for targeted cod fishing in the next few years.

Regulation (EU) 2020/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 as regards fishing capacity reduction in the Baltic Sea, and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards permanent cessation of fishing activities for fleets fishing

for eastern Baltic cod, western Baltic cod and western Baltic herring, lays down the legal conditions for providing support for the decommissioning of fishing vessels in the Baltic Sea. Under Article 8a(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/1781, support for the permanent cessation of fishing activities in accordance with Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 may be granted only if the action plan referred to in Article 22(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 sets out specific capacity reduction targets for vessels with fishing opportunities for one or more of the three stocks concerned. Under Article 8a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/1781, Member States implementing the permanent cessation measures referred to in the first paragraph must notify the Commission of the annual average total fishing capacity, for the years 2015 to 2019, of all vessels having been allocated fishing opportunities for any of the three stocks concerned. Moreover, Member States must notify the Commission of the total fishing capacity withdrawn from fishing vessels to which fishing opportunities had been allocated for any of the three stocks concerned.

This action plan, drawn up pursuant to Article 22(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013, therefore concerns the following Baltic Sea fleet segments for which specific measures are deemed necessary:

1 Fleet segments concerned

Table 1: Fleet segments included in action plan

Fleet segment	Explanation	Stocks fished*
PG VL0010	Passive gear, vessels less than 10 m	Baltic Sea stocks
PG VL1012	Passive gear, vessels 10-12 m	Cod and herring in the western Baltic Sea
DFN VL1218	Static net vessels, 12-18 m	Western Baltic herring
FPO VL1218	Pot fishing vessels, 12-18 m	Western Baltic herring
DTS VL1012	Demersal trawlers, 10-12 m	Cod, herring and dab in the Baltic Sea
DTS VL1218	Demersal trawlers, 12-18 m	Baltic Sea and Kattegat stocks
DTS VL1824	Demersal trawlers, 18-24 m (only Baltic Sea vessels according to MAF-BMEL)	Baltic Sea and North Sea stocks
DTS VL2440	Demersal trawlers, 24-40 m (only Baltic Sea vessels according to MAF-BMEL)	Baltic Sea and North Sea stocks
TM VL1012	Pelagic trawlers, 12-18 m [<i>sic</i>]	Western Baltic herring
TM VL1218	Pelagic trawlers, 12-18 m	Western Baltic herring
TM VL1824	Pelagic trawlers, 18-24 m	Western Baltic herring
TM VL2440	Pelagic trawlers, 24-40 m	Baltic herring and sprat

* For details see Annex 2 to the 2019 fleet report

2 Indicator values for the fleet segments concerned in 2019

The indicator values were established in accordance with the Commission Guidelines of 2 September 2014. Recommendations are also made for interpreting the results. Based on those

requirements, the values were established using a traffic light system to make the results easier to understand. The values were then analysed in combination.

The condition of some of the most important fish stocks in Baltic Sea fisheries is a matter of concern. Our assessment therefore puts greater emphasis than in previous years on the SAR (stocks-at-risk) indicator and/or a fleet segment's dependence on a stock in a poor condition.

There are signs of an imbalance in the following fleet segments:

Table 2: Baseline for targets and measures set for the fleet segments concerned

Fleet segment by vessel length	Biological indicators – SHI and Stock at risk	Economic indicators – RoFTA 2019 and CR/BER 2019, with trends for 2008-2019	Technical indicator – Vessel utilisation (registered/theoretical)	Summary of Indicator values
PG VL0010	X	X	X	Main emphasis on species mix and technical indicator baselines. Segment in overall imbalance.
PG VL1012	X	X	X	All indicators are taken into account. Segment in overall imbalance.
DFN VL1218	X	X	X	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in overall imbalance.
FPO VL1218	X	–	–	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in overall imbalance.
DTS VL1012	X	X	X	Main emphasis on species mix and economic indicators. Segment in overall imbalance.
DTS VL1218	X	X	X	All indicators are taken into account. Segment in overall imbalance.
DTS VL1824	X	X	X	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in imbalance only as regards Baltic Sea fishing businesses.
DTS VL2440	X	X	X	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in imbalance only as regards Baltic Sea fishing businesses.
TM VL1218	X	–	–	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in overall imbalance.
TM VL1824	X	–	–	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in overall imbalance.
TM VL2440	X	–	–	Only the biological indicators are relevant. Segment in overall imbalance.

3 Objectives of the action plan

Under Article 22(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the action plan must set out the adjustment targets and the tools to be used to achieve a balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities, together with a clear time frame and responsibilities for its implementation.

Given the complexity of the indicators used, overall targets are set for all fleet segments and specific measures are laid down for individual segments to implement these requirements.

Overall targets:

3.1 Transposition of the legal requirements of the new Common Fisheries Policy to promote a positive investment climate in the fishing industry

The requirements set out in the legal acts revising the common fisheries policy should be promptly transposed by the Federal Government and the federal states to help provide legal certainty in the fishing industry.

Table 3: Objectives and timetable for implementing the legal requirements of the Common Fisheries Policy

Objective	Target – Quota	Timetable
Adaptation of relevant laws and regulations of the Federal Government	100%	ongoing
Adaptation of relevant laws and regulations of the federal states	100%	ongoing

3.2 Indicator adjustments to improve the accuracy of measures to adjust fishing capacity to fishing opportunities

As regards the use of the indicators set out in the Guidelines, the 2019 fleet report states that certain adjustments to the data and calculation methods used could make the indicators more relevant. This issue has also been addressed by the STECF. Funds should therefore be made available for research. Particular attention should be paid to price changes (e.g. a drop in the prices of Baltic Sea products due to substitution with North Sea products) and/or business structures (e.g. operator owns several fishing vessels, possibly in different segments). Among other things, this will minimise the risk of poorly designed measures to reduce excess capacity. Also, findings in the fleet report that concern fleet segments in individual federal states should be specifically summarised and forwarded to them. This will make it easier for the federal states concerned to provide input.

Table 4: Objectives and timetable for any adjustment of the indicators

Objective	Target – Quota	Time table
Adjustments of common indicators used	none	2020
Summary of findings in fleet report for the federal states concerned, indicating the relevant fleet segments and fishing vessels	100%	ongoing

3.3 Modernisation of the German fishing fleet

Measures provided for under the new common fisheries policy and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) are designed to promote and establish sustainable development of fisheries. In this context, fishing businesses should be allowed to make innovations within the framework of the Modernisation Notice (Fourth Notice on Fisheries Regulations of 17 June 2014; Federal Gazette AT 2 July 2014 B4, see Annex I) to modernise their fishing vessels or replace them with more efficient vessels. The notice only concerns cases in which modernisation or replacement measures result in a reduction in active fishing capacity. This will ensure resource-efficient, sustainable fisheries and safeguard the competitiveness of the German fishing fleet, thereby securing market supply. It will also limit the impact of fisheries on the marine environment.

The following measures can be considered when it comes to modernising fishing vessels or replacing them for operational reasons in order to make fisheries more resource-efficient and thus sustainable:

1. Conversion (use of new fishing techniques) to improve selectivity, energy efficiency and product quality;
2. Modernisation of on-board processing and storage to improve product quality;
3. More selective or energy-efficient gear;
4. Measures to improve the cost-effectiveness of fishing vessels and safety at work on board.

This applies where one or two fishing vessels are permanently decommissioned and replaced by one other fishing vessel, or where an existing fishing vessel is modernised. The replacement fishing vessel must have less fishing capacity than the fishing vessel(s) replaced, but must have sufficient potential to use the full catch quotas allocated to the replaced vessels. The fishing opportunities of the old vessels can only be used by the replacement fishing vessel.

Where two fishing vessels are replaced by one vessel, any unused fishing capacity for which the fishing business is granted a licence may be used for further modernisation and expansion of existing fishing vessels. If quotas change, fishing capacities may, on a case-by-case basis

and on application, be used flexibly in the context of relative stability, including for the purpose of commissioning another fishing vessel.

Table 5: Objectives and timetable for modernising the German fishing fleet

Objective	Target – Quota	Timetable
Increasing awareness of the new rules	none	ongoing
Providing fishing businesses with targeted advice on new rules	none	ongoing
Increased use of rules	2-3 each year 4-5 each year	2015-2016 for 2017-2020

3.4 Actively shifting fishing pressure to maintain small-scale fisheries in the Baltic Sea

Efforts will be made and every avenue explored to shift fishing pressure from the Baltic Sea to the North Sea or other fishing areas in order to support and maintain small-scale coastal fisheries, which are of vital importance in Germany’s Baltic region. This is necessary because there are fewer possibilities of branching out to other fisheries in the Baltic Sea, due to the limited number of major stocks that can be fished commercially, than in the North Sea, for example.

In order to allow fishing effort to be shifted from the Baltic Sea to the North Sea, the Federal Government has campaigned for the fishing effort scheme to be abolished for the Baltic Sea and the North Sea.

Table 6: Objectives and timetable for actively shifting fishing pressure

Objective	Target – Quota	Timetable
Swapping/shifting fishing opportunities between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea or other fishing areas	None quantified Objective	ongoing
Abolition of the Baltic Sea fishing effort restriction	100%	2016
Abolition of the North Sea fishing effort restriction	100%	2018

3.5 Aid restrictions

EMFF support will only be granted to businesses whose main activity is fishing. This will provide targeted support to the businesses most affected by declining fish stocks and thus loss of income.

Specific measures:

3.6 Suspension of cod fishing in the western Baltic Sea

The Fisheries Council increased the catch quota for cod in ICES sub-areas 22-24 by 70% for 2019. This still meant, however, that the German quota was around 25% lower than in 2016. In a joint declaration, the Commission and Germany stated that in view of the critical condition of the cod

stock, Germany considered it necessary to take emergency measures such as imposing closure periods of 20 days on German fishing vessels targeting cod in sub-areas 22-24.

The closure period was divided into two 10-day blocks in the fishing season from 1 January to 31 May 2019. Cod fishing was prohibited during the closure period. The businesses concerned received support under Article 33 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Regulation (EMFF Regulation) for the temporary laying-up of their fishing vessels. During the laying-up period all fishing activities, including for non-commercial and scientific purposes, had to be suspended.

For 2020 a further drastic reduction in catches, in the order of 60%, was adopted on the basis of a scientific assessment of the condition of the stocks. This meant that a closure period also had to be imposed in 2020.

In the 2021 fishing year there will be a closure period of 30 days, divided into three 10-day blocks in the fishing seasons from 1 January to 31 January and from 1 April to 14 May. Cod fishing with vessels more than 8 meters in length is banned during the closure period. The businesses concerned will receive support under Article 33 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Regulation (EMFF Regulation) for the temporary laying-up of their fishing vessels. During the laying-up period all fishing activities, including for non-commercial and scientific purposes, must be suspended.

Closure periods and a temporary laying-up of fishing vessels will continue to be imposed for as long as the condition of the cod stock makes this necessary. In the long term, the segments concerned must be determined on a yearly basis once catch-level recommendations have been made and quotas have been set,

3.7 Suspension of herring fishing in the western Baltic Sea

The Fisheries Council reduced the catch quota for herring in ICES sub-areas 22-24 by 48% for 2019. In a joint declaration, the Commission and Germany stated that in view of the critical condition of the herring stock, Germany considered it necessary to take emergency measures such as imposing a closure period of 30 days on German fishing vessels targeting herring in those sub-areas. In addition, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania also imposed a closure period of 30 days in 2019 on vessels with an overall length of less than 8 metres in fishing certain coastal waters.

The closure period was divided into three 10-day blocks in the period from 1 August to 31 October 2019. Herring fishing was prohibited during the closure period. The businesses concerned received support under Article 33 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Regulation (EMFF Regulation) for the temporary laying-up of their fishing vessels. During the laying-up period all fishing activities, including for non-commercial and scientific purposes, had to be suspended.

For 2020, a further total allowable catch reduction of 65% was decided on the basis of a scientific assessment of the condition of the stocks. This meant that a closure period had to be imposed also in 2020.

In the 2021 fishing year there will be a closure period of 20 days, divided into two 10-day blocks in the fishing season from 1 August to 31 October. Herring fishing is prohibited during the closure period. The businesses concerned will receive support under Article 33 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Regulation (EMFF Regulation) for the temporary laying-up of their fishing vessels. During the laying-up period all fishing activities, including for non-commercial and scientific purposes, must be suspended.

Closure periods and a temporary laying-up of fishing vessels will continue to be imposed for as long as the condition of the herring stock makes this necessary. In the long term, the segments concerned must be determined on a yearly basis once catch-level recommendations have been made and quotas have been set.

3.8 Permanent cessation of fishing activities

The quotas set for Baltic cod and western Baltic herring, the main species fished by German fishers, are at an historically low level. Based on an assessment of stock trends, a rapid recovery is not to be expected or is highly uncertain at best. Cod and herring fishers in the Baltic Sea are therefore not likely to see fishing opportunities improve in the next few years. Moreover, environmental conditions in the Baltic Sea have changed, resulting in reduced stock productivity overall, at least for western Baltic herring and eastern Baltic cod. This means that the total allowable catch levels seen in the past can no longer be attained, even with the best possible stock management. Only a few fishing businesses have the possibility to switch to other target species or to other fishing areas. In view of this, reducing the capacity of the Baltic Sea fishing fleet is something that cannot be avoided. The fisheries concerned are set out in the following tables:

Table 7: Annual average total fishing capacity of all vessels with fishing opportunities for western Baltic herring

Western Baltic herring		
Year	GT	kW
2015	7 706	33 497
2016	7646	33 228
2017	7 298	31 314
2018	7 166	31 147
2019	8 129	33 152
Average	7 589	32 468

Table 8: Annual average total fishing capacity of all vessels with fishing opportunities for western Baltic cod

Western Baltic cod		
Year	GT	kW
2015	9 646	40 425
2016	9 538	40 078
2017	9 435	39 233
2018	8 866	3 6703
2019	9 565	37 607
Average	9 410	38 809

Table 9: Annual average total fishing capacity of all vessels with fishing opportunities for eastern Baltic cod

Eastern Baltic cod		
Year	GT	kW
2015	8 334	26 491
2016	8 215	26 063
2017	8 148	25 515
2018	7 606	23 170
2019	8 321	24 387
Average	8 125	25 125

Some vessels have fishing licences for several of these fisheries, however, so the above figures cannot simply be added up to arrive at total fishing capacity. Decommissioning will therefore not have the same impact on all three fisheries, as a vessel only needs to have fishing opportunities in one of them to be covered by the decommissioning scheme.

Under Article 22(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the fishing capacity of fishing vessels withdrawn with public aid is not to be replaced. Overall German fishing capacity will therefore be reduced by the capacity withdrawn from the German fleet under this scrapping measure. Fishing capacity will be reduced both in terms of gross tonnage (GT) and in terms of engine power expressed in kilowatts (kW). The same GT and kW capacity reduction also applies to the fleet which could be allocated more fishing opportunities for western Baltic herring and western and eastern Baltic cod in the future.

The German scrapping scheme is aimed at scrapping about a tenth of German fishing capacity for cod and herring in the Baltic Sea. The fleet structure will thus be adapted to the reduced level of fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea, which is expected to be permanent. This is an important step towards preserving German coastal fishing.

Decommissioning is an option for professional fishing businesses operating vessels in fleet segments which are in imbalance (see Table 2). Businesses will be able to apply for a scrapping premium if they operate vessels in segments that have fishing opportunities for western Baltic or eastern Baltic cod and/or western Baltic herring for the fishing year and if their fishing activity is set to cease permanently. A quota of at least 1 tonne must be released (in the year when fishing is to cease permanently) for each scrapped vessel. The rates of the scrapping measure premium will

be scaled according to vessel size (gross tonnage), with a maximum rate for each category. Priority will be given to those vessels that lead to the highest proportionate cod and/or herring quotas being released. For example, no funding is available for part-time fishers who have only a small share of the quota and for whom fishing is not their only source of income. This also applies to commercial fishing businesses mainly operating in the North Sea. The scheme therefore mainly targets businesses which rely heavily on cod and/or herring fishing and have a high cod and/or herring quota. The only businesses that will be able to profit from the measure are therefore those that are disproportionately affected by the quota reductions and at the same time participated disproportionately in cod and herring fishing using the capacity to be scrapped.

When a scrapping premium is granted to a fishing business, it must return to the federal authorities the basic quotas to which the fishing vessel in question was entitled. These quotas will be used to improve the financial situation of the remaining fisheries as part of structural adaptations of the sector, also taking into account Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

There are plans to scrap capacity of 400 GT in specific segments in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein, i.e. 800 GT in total. Scrapping 400 GT in each of these two federal states is sufficient to quickly adapt the fleet to changes in stock productivity, and thus to the available fishing opportunities. It is also necessary to preserve essential onshore and port infrastructure so that fishing can be maintained also in future.

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the western Baltic herring stock is vital for many businesses. The planned scrapping scheme is expected to free up herring catches of some 3 500 tonnes (compared to base year 2016) in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The freed-up quota shares will be used, in a targeted manner, to support the remaining fishing businesses. In addition, a reorientation is currently taking place, with many businesses shifting to other fish species such as flatfish or various freshwater fish species.

In Schleswig-Holstein, the western Baltic cod stock is vital for many businesses. In the short term, mainly vessels with an overall length of more than 12 metres are expected to apply for support under the scrapping scheme, with around a quarter of Schleswig-Holstein's capacity, measured in GT, leaving the fleet. The relatively small number of larger vessels (mainly trawlers) remaining in the reduced fleet will play an essential role with respect to preserving port infrastructure and producer organisations. Redistribution of the quota shares that become available means that they, and the many small-scale coastal fishing vessels, can again be offered prospects for the future.

At present it is not expected that the capacity reduction achieved through the scrapping scheme will lead to a full balance between fishing opportunities and fishing capacity by the end of 2022. How soon this can be achieved depends, to a large extent, on how the cod and herring stocks develop. The main aim of the scrapping scheme is to rapidly adapt the German fleet to the long-term decline in the productivity of Baltic stocks due, among other things, to changing

environmental conditions, and to give the remaining businesses prospects for the future. Germany is convinced that once fleet capacity has been reduced through the scrapping scheme and the freed-up quota parts have been distributed among the remaining Baltic Sea vessels, German fisheries can become environmentally, economically and socially sustainable without any need for permanent subsidies. However, this also requires successful management of the western Baltic cod and herring stocks by means of consistent maximum sustainable yield (MSY) management allowing the stocks to recover sufficiently to sustainably produce the catch levels forecast by the scientists.

4 Specific measures by fleet segment

4.1 Passive fisheries, vessels less than 10 metres (PG VL0010)

Fishing vessels less than 8 metres in length are not taken into account for fleet segment PG VL0010. Despite their large number, these vessels play only a minor role in cod fisheries. Most of them are used only in the context of a side business, for a couple of days on weekends or for a few weeks each season. They are mostly vessels from Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania fishing almost exclusively for herring or non-quota species such as perch, pike and zander in the Baltic bays. The cod catches of these vessels therefore totalled a mere 187 tonnes in 2019. The total herring catches amounted to 240 tonnes.

The German fishing fleet counts 106 vessels (as at 31 December 2019) with a maximum overall length of 8-10 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries using passive gear. These vessels operate almost exclusively in the Baltic Sea. The main species fished are herring and cod. A total of 69 vessels have quota rights for cod (as at 11 May 2020). Likewise, 69 vessels have quota rights for western Baltic herring based on relative stability. The quota allocation may, however, change in the course of the fishing year due to national and international quota swaps and redistribution within the fleet.

This sub-segment has been reduced by one vessel compared to 31.12.2018. Engine power increased by 39 kW and tonnage decreased by 5 GT.

Table 10: Indicator values for passive fisheries, vessels less than 10 metres

PG0010	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.35	0.33	0.25	0.36	0.36	0.42	0.46	0.45
Stock at risk	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	
SHI	2.43	2.42	2.41	2.38	2.41	1.31	1.37	
CR/BER	0.82	0.44	1.36	1.0	1.23	1.14	0.45	
RoFTA	-11.4	-27.8	18.9	0.26	12.4	7.3	-32.2	
No of vessels	144	132	130	129	135	116	107	106
GT	721	659	656	672	721	616	560	565
kW	7 263	6 818	6 722	6 779	7 407	6 420	5 893	5 854

Overall, this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

(a) The Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (*Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung*, BLE) favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.

(b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The

Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

(c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in points 3.6 and 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 11: Timetable for passive fisheries, vessels less than 10 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.2 Passive fisheries, 10-12 metre vessels (PG VL1012)

The German fishing fleet counts 49 vessels (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 10-12 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly passive gear. These vessels operate almost exclusively in the Baltic Sea. The main species fished are herring and cod. In total, 45 vessels have quota rights for cod and 39 vessels have quota rights for herring in the western Baltic Sea (as at 11.5.2020) based on relative stability. The quota allocation

may change in the course of the fishing year due to national and international quota swaps and redistribution within the fleet.

This segment has been reduced by one vessel compared to 31.12.2019. Engine power fell by 29 kW and tonnage by 2 GT.

Table 12 Indicator values for passive fisheries, vessels 10-12 metres

PG1012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.56	0.51	0.41	0.44	0.43	0.56	0.54	0.55
Stock at risk	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	
SHI	2.31	2.12	2.13	2.24	2.28	1.29	1.37	
CR/BER	0.56	0.48	0.12	0.42	0.61	0.04	-0.15	
RoFTA	-20.8	-24.0	-42.8	-28.4	-23.5	-79.2	-70.3	
No of vessels	68	66	67	64	58	58	50	49
GT	750	717	723	695	646	668	579	577
kW	5 948	5 692	5 847	5 570	5 199	5 301	4 751	4 722

Overall, this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

- (a) The BLE favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.
- (b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the

PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

(c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in points 3.6 and 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 13: Timetable for passive fisheries, vessels 10-12 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.3 Passive gear vessels 12-18 metres (DFN VL1218 and FPO VL1218)

4.3.1 Static net vessels 12-18 metres (DFN VL1218)

The German fishing fleet counts four vessels (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 12-18 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly passive gear. These vessels mainly fish in the Baltic Sea, with one vessel fishing in the North Sea. The main species are herring in the Baltic Sea and sole and cod in the North Sea and Skagerrak.

Table 14: Indicator values for static net vessels 12-18 metres

DFN1218	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.72	0.44	0.57	0.48	0.58	0.40	0.47	0.43
Stock at risk	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	
SHI	1.62	1.55	1.19	1.21	1.15	1.19	1.30	
CR/BER	7.54	3.85	1.85	-1.51	6.65	4.46	0.36	
RoFTA	178.9	98.4	36.8	-96.9	176.3	107.9	-18.4	
No of vessels	7	11	9	5	5	7	5	4
GT	147	272	220	121	132	193	150	124
kW	842	1 592	1 182	1 182	821	969	69	590

Overall, this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

- (a) The BLE favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.
- (b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

(c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in points 3.6 and 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 15: Timetable for static net vessels 12-18 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.3.2 Pot fishing vessels 12-18 metres (FPO VL1218)

The German fishing fleet counts one vessel (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 12-18 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as its main business using mainly passive gear. This vessel fishes virtually only herring in the western Baltic Sea. This segment is currently in imbalance due to its dependence on one stock which is in a poor condition.

4.4 Trawlers 10-12 metres (DTS VL1012 and TM VL1012)

4.4.1 Demersal trawlers 10-12 metres (DTS VL1012)

The German fishing fleet counts ten vessels (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 10-12 metres engaged in coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly demersal trawl nets. These vessels fish only in the Baltic Sea, mainly cod and herring, but also dab, flounder and plaice.

This segment has been reduced by four vessels compared to 31.12.2018. Engine power fell by 495 kW and tonnage by 60 GT.

Four vessels have quota rights for western Baltic cod and herring (as at 11.5.2020) based on relative stability. The quota allocation may change in the course of the fishing year due to national and international quota swaps and redistribution within the fleet.

Table 16: Indicator values for demersal trawlers 10-12 metres

DTS1012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.59	0.42	0.48	0.45	0.34	0.31	0.71	0.80
Stock at risk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
SHI	2.50	2.77	2.62	2.29	2.06	1.27	1.37	
CR/BER	0.56	0.66	0.39	0.41	0.29	0.81	0.97	
RoFTA	-29.0	-23.6	-47.6	-57.7	-4.7	-21.7	-2.1	
No of vessels	10	12	11	10	10	6	8	4
GT	146	183	169	154	156	94	112	52
kW	1 441	1 803	1 608	1 425	1 433	744	853	358

Overall, this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

- (a) The BLE favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.
- (b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.
- (c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in points 3.6 and 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 17: Timetable for demersal trawlers 10-12 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.4.2 Pelagic trawlers 10-12 metres (TM VL1012)

The German fishing fleet counts one vessel (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 10-12 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as its main business using mainly passive gear. This vessel fishes virtually only herring in the western Baltic Sea. This segment is currently in imbalance due to its dependence on one stock which is in a poor condition.

4.5 Trawlers 12-18 metres (DTS VL1218 and TM VL1218)

4.5.1 Demersal trawlers 12-18 metres (DTS VL1218)

The German fishing fleet counts 18 vessels (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 12-18 metres engaged in coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly demersal trawl nets. These vessels fish only in the Baltic Sea, mainly cod and herring, but also dab, flounder and plaice. Mainly pelagic gear is used for herring. As at 31.12.2019 this segment had increased by one vessel compared to 2018. As a result, tonnage increased by 75 GT and engine power by 219 kW. In total, 17 vessels in this segment have quota rights for herring and 18 vessels have quota rights for cod in the western Baltic Sea (as at 11.5.2020) based on relative stability. The quota allocation may change in the course of the fishing year due to national and international quota swaps and redistribution within the fleet.

Table 18: Indicator values for demersal trawlers 12-18 metres

DTS1218	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.71	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	0.57	0.68	0.66
Stock at risk	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	
SHI	2.54	2.52	2.51	2.67	2.32	1.33	1.33	
CR/BER	1.00	0.82	0.80	0.74	0.57	0.81	1.37	
RoFTA	-0.7	-7.5	-8.1	-10.7	-18.9	-18.9	17.7	
No of vessels	27	30	29	28	27	20	17	18
GT	923	1 024	1 008	826	866	655	548	623
kW	4 960	5 514	5 414	4 694	4 918	3 765	3 109	3 328

Overall, this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

- (a) The BLE favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.
- (b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

(c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in points 3.6 and 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

The possibility of scrapping fishing capacity with support from public funds was widely used in segment DTS VL1218 in 2017. Six vessels were scrapped pursuant to Article 34 EMFF. As a result, fishing capacity in this segment fell by 198 GT and 1,178 kW. All of the scrapped vessels' quota rights were returned to the BLE and are reallocated on a yearly basis.

Please also refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 19: Timetable for demersal trawlers 12-18 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.5.2 Pelagic trawlers 12-18 metres (TM VL1218)

The German fishing fleet counts one vessel (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 12-18 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as its main business using mainly passive gear. This vessel fishes virtually only herring in the western Baltic Sea. This segment is currently in imbalance due to its dependence on one stock which is in a poor condition.

4.6 Trawlers 18-24 metres (DTS VL1824 and TM VL1824)

4.6.1 Demersal trawlers 18-24 metres (DTS VL1824)

The German fishing fleet counts 14 vessels (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 18-24 metres engaged in coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly demersal trawl nets, These vessels fish in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. In the North Sea the main species are plaice, Norway lobster, common shrimp, turbot and sole. In the Baltic Sea the main species are cod, dab, flounder, herring and sprat.

This segment has increased by three vessels compared to 2018. As a result, tonnage increased by 328 GT and engine power by 663 kW.

Table 20: Indicator values for demersal trawlers 18-24 metres

DTS1824	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.62	0.60	0.59	0.60	0.65	0.68	0.66	0.60
Stock at risk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
SHI	1.92	1.62	1.54	1.50	1.47	1.12	1.03	
CR/BER	0.51	2.84	2.22	1.32	2.91	1.59	3.49	
RoFTA	-15.9	50.9	37.6	12.3	66.2	33.6	82.4	
No of vessels	20	18	17	16	13	13	11	14
GT	2 231	2 064	1 847	1 724	1 444	1 544	1 293	1 621
kW	4 330	3 925	3 704	3 485	2 824	3 118	2 529	3 192

No clear assessment can be made for this segment on the basis of the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report. However, one stock [*sic*] at risk with a poor outlook, western Baltic herring and Baltic cod, were fished in 2019. Therefore, an imbalance can be observed for 2019 for vessels fishing in the Baltic Sea.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

- (a) The BLE favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.
- (b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.
- (c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 21: Timetable for demersal trawlers 18-24 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2017	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.6.2 Pelagic trawlers 18-24 metres (TM VL1824)

The German fishing fleet counts one vessel (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 18-24 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as its main business using mainly passive gear. This vessel fishes cod and herring, among other species, in the western Baltic Sea. This segment is currently in imbalance due to its dependence on Baltic sea fisheries, in particular herring, which is in a poor condition.

4.7 Trawlers 24-40 metres (DTS VL2440 and TM VL2440)

4.7.1 Demersal trawlers 24-40 metres (DTS VL2440)

The German fishing fleet counts 14 vessels (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 24-40 metres engaged in coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly demersal trawl nets. Apart from two vessels fishing in the Baltic Sea and one vessel partly fishing in the North Sea, vessels in this segment mainly fish in the North Sea area. In the Baltic Sea the main species are cod, dab, flounder, herring and sprat.

Table 22: Indicator values for demersal trawlers 24-40 metres

DTS2440	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Technical indicator	0.65	0.68	0.59	0.66	0.70	0.70	0.51	0.57
Stock at risk	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	
SHI	1.17	1.07	1.08	1.17	1.09	1.12	1.25	
CR/BER	1.05	1.36	1.30	2.02	2.24	1.25	1.18	
RoFTA	3.2	12.6	8.8	31.1	31.2	23.6	5.5	
Number of vessels	10	11	12	10	9	8	11	14
GT	2 523	2 660	2 981	2 768	2 343	2 172	2 992	4 410
kW	4 683	4 830	5 361	5 295	4 275	3 835	5 505	7 822

No clear assessment can be made for this segment on the basis of the indicators analysed in the 2019 fleet report. One stock [*sic*] at risk, western Baltic herring and western Baltic cod, were fished in 2019. Therefore, an imbalance can be observed for 2019 for vessels fishing in the Baltic Sea.

To improve indicator values the following specific measures are being implemented:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

Quotas can be shifted only up to the 2020 fishing year under this action plan as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from one year to the next under the TAC Regulation.

Shifting fishing opportunities improves the segment's quota situation, making it easier to manage any further quota reductions in the context of fishing Baltic Sea stocks at MSY level. The measures being taken are set out in more detail below.

- (a) The BLE favours an exchange at national level between the high-sea fleet and the cutter fleet of 600 tonnes each for 2019 and 210 tonnes each for 2020, balancing herring fishing by pelagic trawlers in the North Sea (HER/4AB) against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the HER/4AB stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Cutter and Coastal Fisheries and the German High Seas Fishing Association are actively involved.
- (b) The BLE is in favour of allowing large trawlers (18 metres and above) to increase their catches of certain North Sea flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in 2019 and 2020, as part of an exchange where catches of western Baltic cod are reallocated to smaller vessels (less than 18 metres). According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2020/123), the PLE/2A3AX4 stock is within safe biological limits, as Article 7(2) applies to that stock. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.
- (c) For the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the BLE aims for an arrangement where North Sea-based fishing businesses use their fishing opportunities in the North Sea only and not their quota rights for Baltic stocks. The Association of German Coastal and Cutter Fishers and producer organisations are consulted by the BLE and are actively involved.

2. Marketing support

Appropriate measures are being taken under the EMFF to strengthen direct marketing by fishers and producer organisations in order to improve income levels. Funds are also made available under the EMFF for generic advertising aimed at improving the image of small-scale fisheries and encouraging consumers to pay higher prices.

3. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.7.

4. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.8.

Table 23: Timetable for demersal trawlers 24-40 metres

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2017	ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2021	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2021	2022	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.7.2 Pelagic trawlers 24-40 metres (TM VL2440)

The German fishing fleet counts one vessel (as at 31.12.2019) of a maximum overall length of 24-40 metres engaged in small-scale coastal fisheries as its main business using mainly passive gear. This vessel fishes herring in the western Baltic Sea. This segment is currently in imbalance due to its dependence on Baltic sea fisheries, in particular herring, which is in a poor condition.

5 Flanking measures

The following flanking measures are being implemented to make the action plan more effective:

- In accordance with point 4 of the action plan, the federal states and the fishing industry are consulted on developments in the various fleet segments as part of consultations on annual quota allocations pursuant to Section 3(3) of the Sea Fisheries Act (*Seefischereigesetz*) with a view to identifying new targets and/or measures.
- There are regular exchanges of views on fleet development at regional level during talks between the federal government and the federal states.
- The BLE and the Thünen Institute arrange working meetings to evaluate the results of the action plan and agree on any adjustments required. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the federal states are advised accordingly.

6 Evaluation of results

All the relevant central-government and federal-state authorities will take part in the evaluation of the action plan at the end of the current EMFF funding period. The relevant industry associations are also involved. The BLE is currently drawing up a report with input from the federal states and the Thünen Institute based on the targets and measures described.