

Action Plan linked to the 2018 Fleet Report 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 (CFP Regulation) 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 the CFP Regulation 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 2018 report on the balance between the fishing capacity and the fishing opportunities of the German fishing fleet shows that for certain fleet segments there are notable divergences in some indicator values. In accordance with Article 22 of the CFP Regulation 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 September 2014).

As required by Article 22(4) of the CFP Regulation, an action plan has therefore been drawn up for the fleet segments below.

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 meters	Baltic Sea stocks
PG VL1012	Passive gear, 10-12 metre vessels	Cod and herring in the western Baltic Sea
DTS VL1012	Trawlers 10-12 metres	Cod, herring and dab in the Baltic Sea
DTS VL1218	Trawlers 12-18 metres	Baltic Sea and Kattegat stocks
DTS VL1824	Trawlers 18-24 metres	Baltic Sea and North Sea stocks

* For details see Annex 2 to the 2018 fleet report

2 Indicator values for the fleet segments concerned in 2018

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.

There are signs of imbalance in the following fleet segments, for which measures are planned:

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

Fleet segment by vessel length	Biological indicators – SHI and SAR	Economic indicators – RoFTA 2017 and CR/BER 2017, with trends for 2008-2017	Technical indicator – Vessel utilisation (registered/theoretical)	Summary of indicator values
PG VL0010	X	X	X	Main emphasis on species mix and technical indicator baselines. There is an overall imbalance.
PG VL1012	X	X	X	All indicators are taken into account. There is an overall imbalance.
DTS VL1012	X	X	X	Main emphasis on species mix and economic indicators. There is an overall imbalance.
DTS VL1218	X	X	X	All indicators are taken into account. There is an overall imbalance.
DTS VL1824	X	X	X	Only the biological indicators are relevant.

3 Action plan targets (overall targets)

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 applying to all fleet segments as well as measures for each individual segment are laid down to implement these requirements.

The overall targets are as follows:

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 CFP should be promptly transposed by the Federal Government and the federal states to help provide legal certainty in the fishing industry.

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

The 2018 fleet report states in connection with the use of the indicators set out in the Guidelines 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 for research should therefore be made available. 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.

Objective	Target – Quota	Timetable
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

The measures provided for under the new CFP 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 regulates 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 fishing 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.

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 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.

Objective	Target – Quota	Timetable
Swapping/shifting fishing opportunities between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea or other fishing areas	No quantified target	Ongoing
Abolition of the Baltic Sea fishing effort restriction	100%	2016
Abolition of the North Sea fishing effort restriction	100%	2018

3.5 Temporary cessation of fishing activities

3.5.1 Western Baltic cod

For 2017 the Fisheries Council agreed on a 56% catch reduction for cod in ICES sub-areas 22-24. In a joint declaration, the Commission and Germany stated that in view of the critical state of the cod stock, Germany considered it necessary to take emergency measures such as imposing additional closure periods of 30 days on German fishing vessels targeting cod in sub-areas 22-24. The Commission authorised Germany to implement this emergency measure.

These catch reductions were extended into 2018 by imposing another closure period totalling 30 days.

The closure period was divided into three 10-day blocks during the 1-31 January and the 1 April-30 June 2018 fishing periods. 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 2019 the total allowable catch (TAC) has been increased by 70%. However, as the TAC is still well below that of 2016, the reductions of previous years continue to apply. Germany has therefore also imposed a closure period for 2019.

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

3.5.2 Western Baltic herring

For 2018 the Fisheries Council agreed on a 39% catch reduction for herring in ICES sub-areas 22-24. In a joint declaration, the Commission and Germany stated that in view of the critical state of the herring stock, Germany considered it necessary to take emergency measures such as imposing a closure period of 20 days on German fishing vessels targeting herring in sub-areas 22-24. The Commission authorised Germany to implement this emergency measure.

The closure period was divided into two 10-day blocks in the period from 1 August-30 September 2018. 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 2019 the total allowable catch (TAC) has been further reduced by 48%, and Germany has therefore imposed a closure period of 30 days for 2019. In addition, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has also imposed a closure period of 30 days in 2019 on fishing vessels with an overall length of less than 8 metres in certain coastal waters.

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

3.6 Permanent cessation of fishing activities

With a view to balancing fishing capacity and fishing opportunities in the German fishing fleet, in 2017 provision was made for scrapping fishing capacity in segments PG VL0010, PG VL1012, DTS VL1012 and DTS VL1218 with support from public funds. Applicants were granted a scrapping premium based on the vessel's gross tonnage in accordance with Article 34 of the EMFF Regulation. As a result, six fishing vessels in the demersal trawlers segment 12-18 m (DTS VL1218) were scrapped in 2017, reducing capacity by 198 GT and 1,178 kW. The scrapped vessels' quota rights, i.e. currently 54.8 tonnes of western Baltic cod, 91.8 tonnes of eastern Baltic cod, 52.2 tonnes of western Baltic herring and 6.7 tonnes of Baltic sprat, were returned to the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), which is responsible for managing national fishing quotas in Germany. They were reallocated to fishing businesses with a need for them as part of the annual quota allocation. At a later stage they will also be used to support young fishermen setting up a business. This will help improve the age structure of the German fishing fleet.

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, mostly just for a couple of days, such as on weekends, or seasonally for just a few weeks. 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 147 tonnes in 2018. The total herring catches amounted to 505 tonnes. Specific measures for fishing vessels less than 8 metres in length are currently not considered necessary.

The German fishing fleet counts 107 vessels (as at 31 December 2018) with a maximum overall length between 8 and 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 85 vessels have quota rights for cod (as at 23 April 2019), whereas 86 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 nine vessels compared to 31 December 2017. Engine power decreased by 527 kW and tonnage by 56 GT.

PG0010	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Technical indicator	0.35	0.33	0.25	0.36	0.36	0.42	0.46
SAR	3	3	3	1	1	1	
SHI	2.43	2.42	2.41	2.38	2.41	1.31	
CR/BER	0.82	0.44	1.36	1.0	1.23	1.14	
RoFTA	-11.4	-27.8	18.9	0.26	12.4	7.3	
Number of vessels	144	132	130	129	135	116	107
GT	721	659	656	672	721	616	560
kW	7,263	6,818	6,722	6,779	7,407	6,420	5,893

Overall this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2018 fleet report.

The following specific measures are being implemented to improve indicator values:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

This action plan can provide for quotas to be shifted only up to the 2019 fishing year, as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from year to year 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, balancing herring fishing in the North Sea (HER/4AB) by pelagic trawlers against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 increased fishing in 2019 of flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in the North Sea by trawlers at least 18 metres long, allowing catches of cod in the western Baltic Sea to be reallocated to vessels less than 18 metres long. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 only their fishing opportunities in the North Sea 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 fishermen 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. Aid restrictions

To qualify for EMFF support, businesses must have achieved average annual profits of at least EUR 10 000 or recorded more than 60 sea days a year on average over the past three years. This allows support to be targeted at profitable businesses, thereby raising the incentive to decommission unprofitable parts of the fleet.

4. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.5.

Timetable

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	Ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	Ongoing	Federal states
Aid restrictions	2016	Ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	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 50 vessels (as at 31 December 2018) of a maximum overall length between 10 and 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, 51 vessels have quota rights for cod and 48 vessels have quota rights for herring in the western Baltic Sea (as at 23 April 2019) 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 eight vessels compared to 31 December 2017. Engine power decreased by 550 kW and tonnage by 89 GT.

PG1012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Technical indicator	0.56	0.51	0.41	0.44	0.43	0.56	0.54
SAR	1	0	1	1	1	1	
SHI	2.31	2.12	2.13	2.24	2.28	1.29	
CR/BER	0.56	0.48	0.12	0.42	0.61	0.04	
RoFTA	-20.8	-24.0	-42.8	-28.4	-23.5	-79.2	
Number of vessels	68	66	67	64	58	58	50
GT	750	717	723	695	646	668	579
kW	5 948	5 692	5 847	5 570	5 199	5 301	4 751

Overall this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2018 fleet report.

The following specific measures are being implemented to improve indicator values:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

This action plan can provide for quotas to be shifted only up to the 2019 fishing year, as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from year to year 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, balancing herring fishing in the North Sea (HER/4AB) by pelagic trawlers against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 increased fishing in 2019 of flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in the North Sea by trawlers at least 18 metres long, allowing catches of cod in the western Baltic Sea to be reallocated to vessels less than 18 metres long. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 only their fishing opportunities in the North Sea 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 fishermen 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. Aid restrictions

To qualify for EMFF support, businesses must have achieved average annual profits of at least EUR 10 000 or recorded more than 60 sea days a year on average over the past three years. This allows support to be targeted at profitable businesses, thereby raising the incentive to decommission unprofitable parts of the fleet.

4. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.5.

Timetable

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

4.3 Trawl fishing, 10-12 metre vessels (DTS VL1012)

The German fishing fleet counts ten vessels (as at 31 December 2018) of a maximum overall length between 8 and 12 metres engaged in coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly demersal trawl nets. These vessels fish only in the Baltic Sea, mainly for cod and herring, but also for dab, flounder and plaice.

This segment has been reduced by two vessels compared to 31 December 2017. Engine power increased by 109 kW and tonnage by 18 GT.

In this segment, seven vessels have quota rights for western Baltic cod and herring (as at 23 April 2019) based on relative stability, whereas one vessel has quota rights for western Baltic cod only. The quota allocation may change in the course of the fishing year due to national and international quota swaps and redistribution within the fleet.

DTS1012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Technical indicator	0.59	0.42	0.48	0.45	0.34	0.31	0.71
SAR	1	1	1	1	1	1	
SHI	2.50	2.77	2.62	2.29	2.06	1.27	
CR/BER	0.56	0.66	0.39	0.41	0.29	0.81	
RoFTA	-29.0	-23.6	-47.6	-57.7	-4.7	-21.7	
Number of vessels	10	12	11	10	10	6	8
GT	146	183	169	154	156	94	112
kW	1 441	1 803	1 608	1 425	1 433	744	853

The technical indicator improved to a value of 0.71. Overall this segment is in imbalance according to the biological and economic indicators analysed in the 2018 fleet report.

The following specific measures are being implemented to improve indicator values:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

This action plan can provide for quotas to be shifted only up to the 2019 fishing year, as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from year to year 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, balancing herring fishing in the North Sea (HER/4AB) by

pelagic trawlers against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 increased fishing in 2019 of flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in the North Sea by trawlers at least 18 metres long, allowing catches of cod in the western Baltic Sea to be reallocated to vessels less than 18 metres long. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 only their fishing opportunities in the North Sea 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 fishermen 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. Aid restrictions

To qualify for EMFF support, businesses must have achieved average annual profits of at least EUR 10 000 or recorded more than 60 sea days a year on average over the past three years. This allows support to be targeted at profitable businesses, thereby raising the incentive to decommission unprofitable parts of the fleet.

4. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.5.

Timetable

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	Ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	Ongoing	Federal states
Aid restrictions	2016	Ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states
Permanent cessation of fishing activities	2017	2018	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2010	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.4 Trawl fishing, 12-18 metre vessels (DTS VL1218)

The German fishing fleet counts 17 vessels (as at 31 December 2018) of a maximum overall length between 12 and 18 metres engaged in coastal fisheries as their main business using mainly demersal trawl nets. These vessels fish only in the Baltic Sea, mainly for cod and herring, but also for dab, flounder and plaice. Mainly pelagic gear is used for herring. As at 31 December 2018 this segment had been reduced by three vessels compared to 2017, resulting in a reduction in tonnage of 107 GT and in engine power of 656 kW. In total, 17 vessels have quota rights for cod and herring in the western Baltic Sea (as at 23 April 2019) 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.

DTS1218	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Technical indicator	0.71	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	0.57	0.68
SAR	1	2	1	1	1	2	
SHI	2.54	2.52	2.51	2.67	2.32	1.33	
CR/BER	1.00	0.82	0.80	0.74	0.57	0.81	
RoFTA	-0.7	-7.5	-8.1	-10.7	-18.9	-18.9	
Number of vessels	27	30	29	28	27	20	17
GT	923	1 024	1 008	826	866	655	548
kW	4 960	5 514	5 414	4 694	4 918	3 765	3 109

Overall this segment is in imbalance according to the indicators analysed in the 2018 fleet report.

The following specific measures are being implemented to improve indicator values:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

This action plan can provide for quotas to be shifted only up to the 2019 fishing year, as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from year to year 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, balancing herring fishing in the North Sea (HER/4AB) by pelagic trawlers against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 increased fishing in 2019 of flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in the North Sea by trawlers at least 18 metres long, allowing catches of cod in the western Baltic Sea to be reallocated to vessels less than 18 metres long. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 only their fishing opportunities in the North Sea 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 fishermen 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. Aid restrictions

To qualify for EMFF support, businesses must have achieved average annual profits of at least EUR 10 000 or recorded more than 60 sea days a year on average over the past three years. This allows support to be targeted at profitable businesses, thereby raising the incentive to decommission unprofitable parts of the fleet.

4. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.5.

5. 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 decreased by 198 GT and 1 178 kW. All of the scrapped vessels' quota rights were returned to the BLE and reallocated.

Timetable

Measure	Start	End	Responsibility
Shifting relevant quotas	2015	Ongoing	BLE
Marketing support	2016	Ongoing	Federal states
Aid restrictions	2016	Ongoing	Federal states
Temporary cessation of fishing activities	2017	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states
If applicable, further measures to be applied	2020	2020	BMEL, BLE, federal states

4.5 Trawl fishing, 18-24 metre vessels (DTS VL1824)

The German fishing fleet counts 11 vessels (as at 31 December 2018) of a maximum overall length between 18 and 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 been reduced by two vessels compared to 2017, resulting in a reduction in tonnage of 251 GT and in engine power of 589 kW.

DTS1824	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Technical indicator	0.62	0.60	0.59	0.60	0.65	0.68	0.66
SAR	1	1	1	1	1	1	
SHI	1.92	1.62	1.54	1.50	1.47	1.12	
CR/BER	0.51	2.84	2.22	1.32	2.91	1.59	
RoFTA	-15.9	50.9	37.6	12.3	66.2	33.6	
Number of vessels	20	18	17	16	13	13	11
GT	2 231	2 064	1 847	1 724	1 444	1 544	1 293
kW	4 330	3 925	3 704	3 485	2 824	3 118	2 529

No clear assessment can be made for this segment on the basis of the indicators analysed in the 2018 fleet report. The segment is on a positive trend and is included in the action plan only on account of one biological indicator (SAR).

The following specific measures are being implemented to improve indicator values:

1. Shifting relevant fishing opportunities to coastal fisheries

This action plan can provide for quotas to be shifted only up to the 2019 fishing year, as fishing opportunities for the commercially most important stocks may change from year to year 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, balancing herring fishing in the North Sea (HER/4AB) by pelagic trawlers against the release of herring for coastal fisheries in the western Baltic Sea. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 increased fishing in 2019 of flatfish stocks (including PLE/2A3AX4) in the North Sea by trawlers at least 18 metres long, allowing catches of cod in the western Baltic Sea to be reallocated to vessels less than 18 metres long. According to the TAC Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/124), 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 only their fishing opportunities in the North Sea 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 fishermen 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. Aid restrictions

To qualify for EMFF support, businesses must have achieved average annual profits of at least EUR 10 000 or recorded more than 60 sea days a year on average over the past three years. This allows support to be targeted at profitable businesses, thereby raising the incentive to decommission unprofitable parts of the fleet.

4. Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Please refer to the explanations in point 3.5.

Timetable

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

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.