



# How to address pelagic fishing in MSP?

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## KEY MESSAGES

### Fishing grounds and routes to them should be included in planning evidence of MSP process

Such information is needed to ensure that planning decisions concerning other sea uses will not cause unnecessary harm to the fishing sector

- Locations of intensive fishing effort and catch (expressed in tonnes and/or monetary value)
- Several years' timeseries with spatial specificity and annual changes
- Routes from fishing harbours to fishing grounds and back to landing sites
- There are several sub-sectors within fisheries
- Pelagic fishing in cross-border activity in many respects: fishing, fish populations, ownership and regulation

### Areas important for spawning and for different stages of fish life cycle is important to take into account in MSP

This information can generate planning decisions to protect areas important for the fish stocks.

- Fish species may have very distinctive areas for different life cycles + annual migration
- Spawning and nursery areas, sometimes called **essential fish habitats**, can be protected from human disturbance by planning decisions or these areas can be indicated in MSP.

The case focuses on pelagic fishing of herring and sprat that takes place in a large area and vessels can operate in waters of both countries. The case covers the whole project area, but due to the large coverage of the fishing operation we need to address also Bothnian Sea and northern Baltic Proper.

The focus is on open sea areas, but routes between fishing harbours, landing sites and fishing grounds are important, as well. The case pays attention also to spawning and nursery areas as they are parts of the essential fish habitats.

## COMMENTS HERE PLEASE

