

*GEF BALTIC SEA REGIONAL PROJECT
PHASE 1: 2003 – 2005*

BSRP ICES WORKING/STUDY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

COMPILED BY
BÄRBEL MÜLLER-KARULIS



BSRP Large Marine Ecosystem Component implemented by:
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

BSRP ICES Working/Study Group questionnaire

In June 2004 the BSRP Productivity Coordination Center sent a questionnaire to the chairs of the ICES Working and Study Groups (attachment 1). The questionnaire queried the participation of scientists from the BSRP beneficiary countries in the groups. Attached was a cover letter informing the group chairs of BSRP funding for Working/Study Group participants from the BSRP beneficiary countries.

Results

Out of the 114 groups listed on the ICES web page, only 20 replied. Even within the groups attached to the Baltic Committee, the turnout was low and only 3 of the 6 groups answered the questionnaire. Most of the responding groups (Figure 1) were concerned with fisheries issues – mostly fisheries research and fisheries management. Also many respondents in the category “other” were concerned with narrow specialties within the fishery field. Ecosystem related topics were mainly represented as biodiversity or marine environmental monitoring; fewer responding groups were focusing on research-oriented topics like marine eutrophication, phytoplankton and zooplankton.

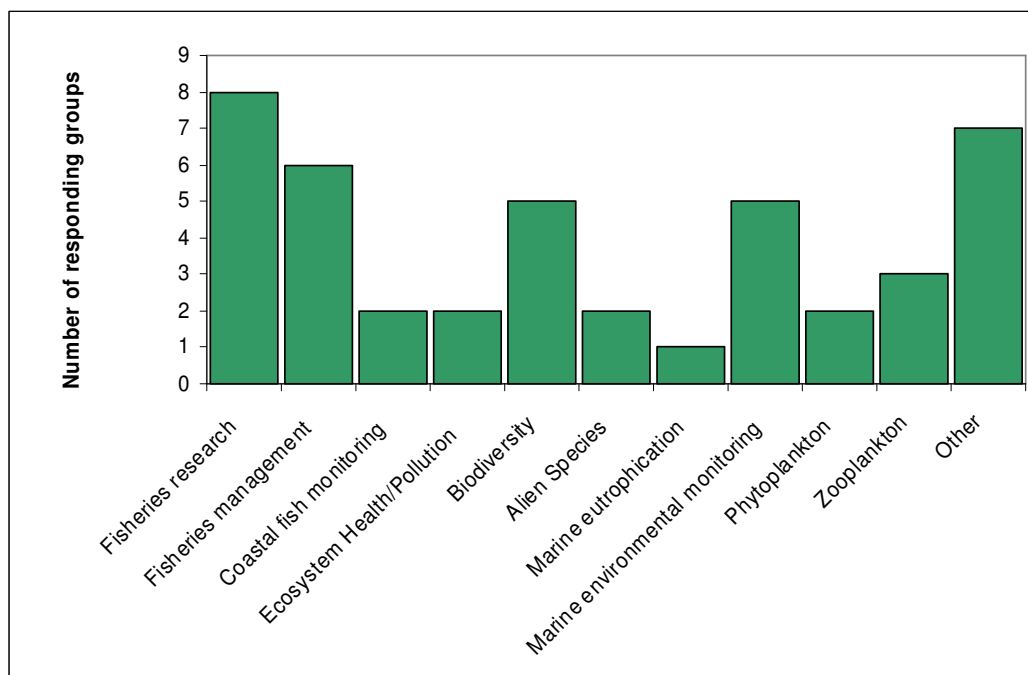


Figure 1: Focus areas of the responding groups

Out of the 20 responding groups, only 15 were concerned with Baltic Sea issues and participation in these groups was analyzed further. BSRP beneficiary countries were not represented in all the responding Working and Study groups dealing with Baltic Sea issues (Figure 2) Because of the low turnout, it is not possible to analyze differences between focus areas in more detail. However, a pattern among the responding groups indicates, that Russia is not represented well in groups dealing with ecosystem issues, while Russian participation in fisheries groups is high.

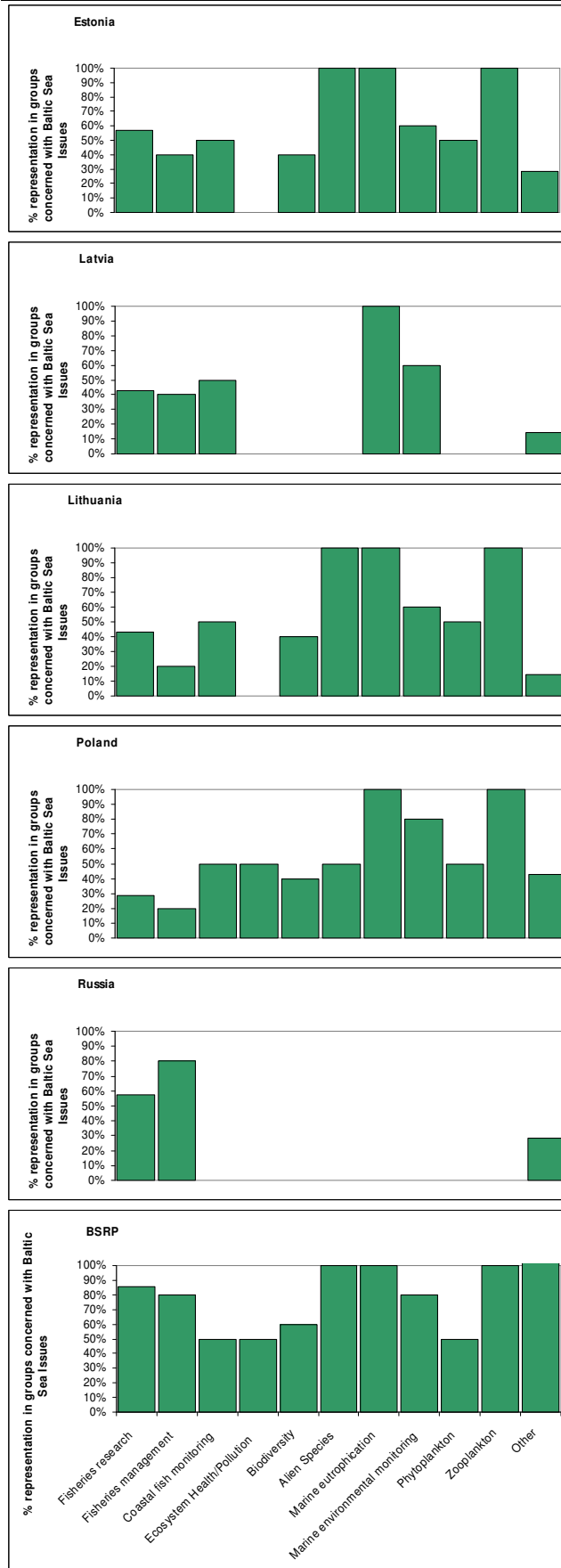


Figure 2: Participation in responding Study and Working Groups concerned with Baltic Sea issues

The responding chairs of Working and Study groups concerned with Baltic Sea Issues perceived participation from BSRP beneficiary countries (Figure 2) as mostly adequate in groups dealing with fisheries research, fisheries management and coastal fish monitoring. Groups focusing on ecosystem issues like ecosystem health/pollution, biodiversity, alien species, phytoplankton and zooplankton complained about inadequate participation from BSRP beneficiary countries. Only within the fields of marine eutrophication and marine environmental monitoring, participation was again termed adequate or almost adequate.

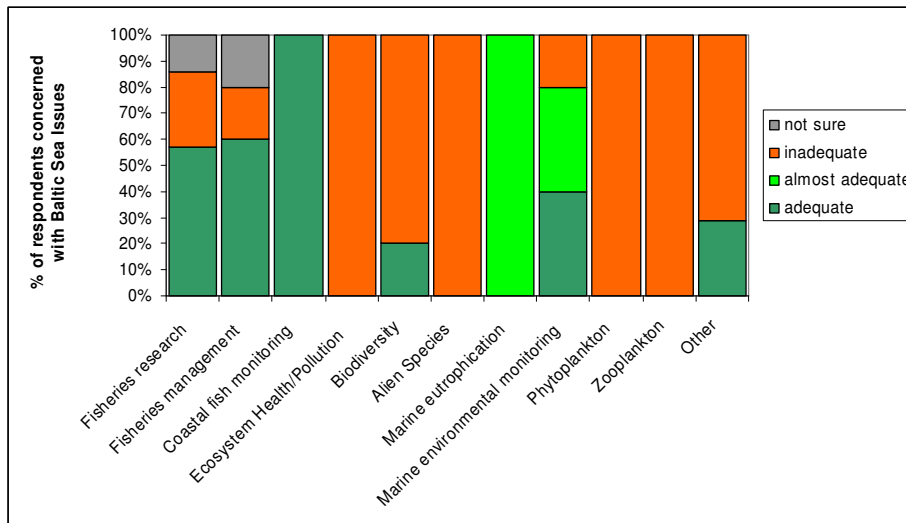


Figure 2: Participation of BSRP beneficiary countries in the responding ICES Working and Study groups concerned with Baltic Sea issues

Insufficient funding (57 %) and insufficient contacts to scientists in BSRP beneficiary countries were the main reasons given among groups concerned with Baltic Sea issues for low participation from BSRP beneficiary countries (Figure 3). Only 7 % of the responding groups claimed, that scientist in the BSRP beneficiary countries did not have relevant expertise.

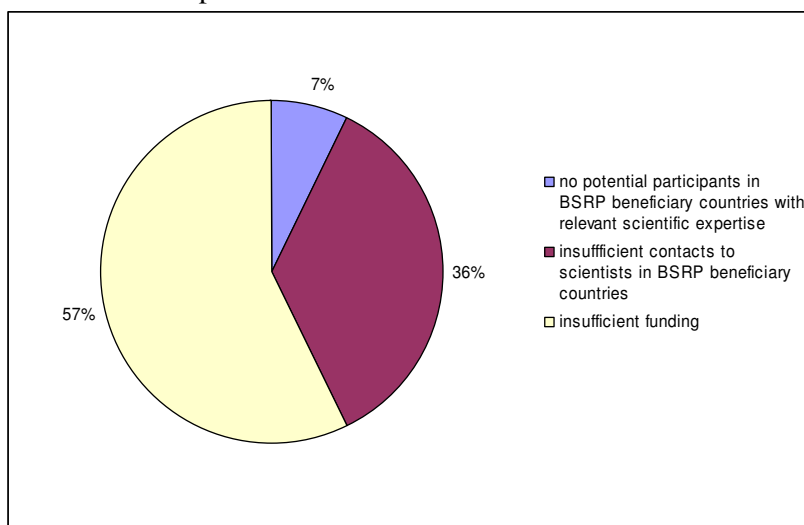


Figure 3: Reasons for low participation from BSRP beneficiary countries in groups concerned with Baltic Sea Issues

Among the groups concerned with Baltic Sea issues, a large fraction of the group chairs – 44 % - plan to invite additional participants from the BSRP beneficiary countries, 11 % had already done so in the past. 17 % of the group chairs expect the national delegates to play a larger role in increasing the share of participants from the BSRP region. 28 % of the responding groups concerned with Baltic Sea issues had no interest in inviting further participants from BSRP beneficiary countries to their groups.

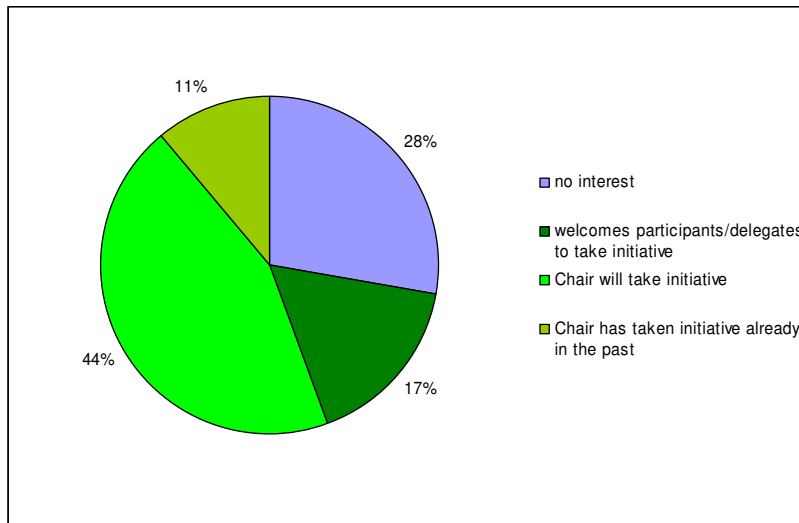


Figure 4: Plans for inviting additional participants from BSRP beneficiary countries to groups concerned with Baltic Sea Issues

Conclusions

BSRP funding should be used actively to increase the participation of BSRP beneficiary countries especially in ICES Working/Study groups concerned with ecosystem issues like ecosystem health/pollution, biodiversity, alien species, phytoplankton and zooplankton, where membership was perceived low. The majority of the questioned group chairs has welcomed increased participation from the BSRP region. As group chairs also complained about insufficient contacts to scientists in BSRP beneficiary countries, the ICES work and the BSRP funding possibilities could also be presented to the scientists involved in BSRP activities to enable scientists to approach both chairs of ICES Working and Study groups as well as their national delegates if they feel that their expertise would contribute to the work of a specific group.

Dear ICES Working group/Study group chair,

the Baltic Sea Regional Project is a GEF/World bank funded initiative to facilitate ecosystem-based management of the Baltic Sea. Among others, the project aims to improve the participation of scientists from the Eastern Baltic in ICES study and working groups. The project can provide travel and subsistence funding for scientists from the BSRP beneficiary countries Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland to attend ICES study and working group meetings or workshops relevant to Baltic Sea management in the following focus areas:

- Fisheries management
- Fish, especially coastal fish monitoring
- Fish age determination and stomach analysis
- Baltic salmon management and salmon river restoration
- Ecosystem health/Pollution
- Monitoring of biological effects of pollutants
- Histopathology
- Alien species
- Biodiversity
- Marine Eutrophication
- Environmental monitoring and assessment of hydrographic variables and nutrient concentrations
- Monitoring of phytoplankton and primary productivity
- Monitoring of zooplankton
- Phytobenthos monitoring
- Unattended monitoring techniques (e.g. ships of opportunities, buoys)
- Data analysis and modeling of monitoring data
- Socio-economic analysis of ecosystem management actions

In order to assess the needs and priorities for participation of scientists from BSRP beneficiary countries in ICES Working and Study groups, we would kindly ask you to fill the attached questionnaire and return it by July 1 to the BSRP Productivity Coordination Center (Baerbel@latnet.lv).

In parallel, we would like to encourage you to approach potential participants from BSRP beneficiary countries and invite them to join your group. To obtain BSRP funding for participants from beneficiary countries, the potential group member should send a letter of application to the BSRP Component 1 Assistant Coordinator, Dr. Andris Andushaitis (Andris@hydro.edu.lv), describing the planned activity and the financial support necessary, together with a letter of support from the Working Group/Study Group chair and the Terms of Reference of the proposed meeting. Financial support will be granted according to the priorities of the BSRP and according to available funds.

Further information on the BSRP can be found at
<http://www.ices.dk/projects/balticsea.asp> and
<http://www.helcom.fi/helcom/projectsmeetings/GEF-BSRP.html>.

Sincerely,

Andris Andrushaitis
BSRP Component 1 Assistant Coordinator

BSRP ICES Working/Study Group questionnaire

Name of the Working/Study Group: _____

Chair: _____

Contact e-mail: _____

Starting and final year of Working/Study Group activity: _____

Working group focus area:

- _____ Fisheries research
- _____ Fisheries management
- _____ Coastal fish monitoring
- _____ Ecosystem Health/Pollution
- _____ Biodiversity
- _____ Alien species
- _____ Marine eutrophication
- _____ Marine environmental monitoring
- _____ Phytoplankton
- _____ Zooplankton
- _____ Other

Number of meetings per year: _____

Is the work of the group arranged by correspondence only? _____

Number of participants _____

Please list countries represented in the group _____

Number of participants from BSRP beneficiary countries _____

Please list BSRP beneficiary countries represented in the group _____

Are BSRP beneficiary countries represented adequately in your group? _____

If participation from BSRP beneficiary countries is low, what are the main reasons?

- _____ no potential participants in BSRP beneficiary countries with relevant scientific expertise
- _____ insufficient contacts to scientists in BSRP beneficiary countries
- _____ insufficient funding
- _____ Working/Study group is not concerned with issues relevant to the Baltic Sea

Do you plan to expand the group to invite additional participants from BSRP beneficiary countries? _____

Please return the questionnaire by July 1 to Baerbel Mueller-Karulis, BSRP Productivity Coordination Center (baerbel@latnet.lv) -> Thank you very much for your cooperation.