

ICES Request Form

Request from	European Commission, DG MARE C1
Contact within organisation	
Content contact person	
Request announced	
Request received	18 Dec 2023
Answer deadline client	Date for ICES to make an offer (usually 4-6 weeks after announcement)
Request code (client)	23-16 Baltic salmon – Revised request
Request code (ICES)	
Request	Request for assessing remedial measures in subdivisions 29N and 30 to protect the Ljungan salmon stock
<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>ICES advises that according to the MSY approach the catch of salmon in the mixed-stock sea fisheries (both commercial and recreational in the offshore and coastal areas) should be zero in 2024. ICES further advises that there should be zero catch of wild salmon in weak rivers in AU 5 and in Ljungan in AU 3 in 2024. If spatial-temporal management can be implemented, some fishing opportunities would be possible. ICES considers that if sea fishing can be confined to existing coastal fisheries during the spawning migration (beginning of May to the end of August) in the Bothnian Bay (subdivision 31), total sea catch (both commercial and recreational) in this area of no more than 60 000 salmon could be taken. ICES advice for 2024 is a change to the advice from 2022 and 2023 where some fishing opportunities would be possible if sea fishing could be confined to existing coastal fisheries during the spawning migration (beginning of May to the end of August) in subdivisions 29N, 30 and 31. The adjusted advice is considered as a consequence of the status for the salmon stock in Ljungan and low probabilities of being above Rlim in year 2028 for this stock. At the AGRIFISH Council of October 2023 a joint declaration was signed by the Commission, Finland and Sweden to urgently send a request to ICES to provide scientific advice as soon as possible, on remedial measures that Finland and Sweden may put in place for salmon fisheries in sub-divisions 29N and 30 as targeted measures to further improve the recovery of the Ljungan salmon stock.</p> <p><u>Request to ICES</u></p> <p>ICES is requested to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of each of the five individual measures listed below as well as their combination (measures 1+2, measures 1+2+3 etc. until all measures are included 1+2+3+4+5) in terms of expected reduced mortality for the Ljungan salmon (with the aim to enhance the recovery of the Ljungan salmon stock) in comparison to the management measures applied in subdivisions 29N and 30 during 2023 (see additional background below). For each individual measure and their different combinations, ICES is asked to assess if the expected outcome will have a 1) low, 2) intermediate or 3) high impact to reduce fishing mortality of the Ljungan salmon stock, and if the effect of their implementation on the Ljungan salmon stock is equivalent to that of a prohibition to target salmon in subdivisions 29N</p>	

and 30. In case the effect cannot be considered to be equivalent, ICES is requested to assess if the implementation of the measures would lead to an effect comparable to the aforementioned prohibition in terms of conservation efforts and effects.

ICES is also requested to make a separate comparison of the effect on the recovery of Ljungan salmon between a prohibition of all directed salmon fisheries in subdivisions 29N and 30 (bycatches allowed) and fully allowed directed salmon fisheries in subdivisions 29N and 30 without the above-mentioned remedial management measures.

The assessment and the evaluation of each individual measure should include supporting information based on the best available scientific knowledge that could be provided within the timeframe for the request.

When necessary, observed distribution of salmon catches in time and between areas during 2022 and 2023 shall be used as reference for the assessment of each measure.

Management measures to be assessed:

1. Continue the regulated fishery in a protected area (see maps below) outside the river mouth of Ljungan (a total area of 143.4 km²). In the inner part of the area (33.8 km²), fishing will be prohibited all year with the exception of fishing with hand-operated pole and lines. Fishing for salmon will be prohibited all year. In the outer part of the area (109.6 km²), fishing for salmon will be prohibited all year and fishing with trap-nets will be prohibited all year. Fishing with nets will be prohibited when salmon may be present in the area from 1 April to 30 September.
2. All commercial and recreational salmon fishing within 4 nautical miles in subdivisions 29N and 30 to start no earlier than 27 May.
3. Fishing with trap-nets within 4 nautical miles of the Finnish baseline in subdivision 29N to be restricted to one trap-net from 27 May to 9 June, to two trap-nets from 10 June to 16 June and to four trap-nets from 17 June.
4. Fishing with trap-nets within 4 nautical miles of the Swedish baseline in subdivisions 29N and 30 only to be allowed as a selective fishery for adipose fin-clipped salmon from 27 May to 30 June. During this period all salmon with adipose fin have to be released in accordance with the exemption from the landing obligation [new delegated act/discard plan for salmon 2024-2026].

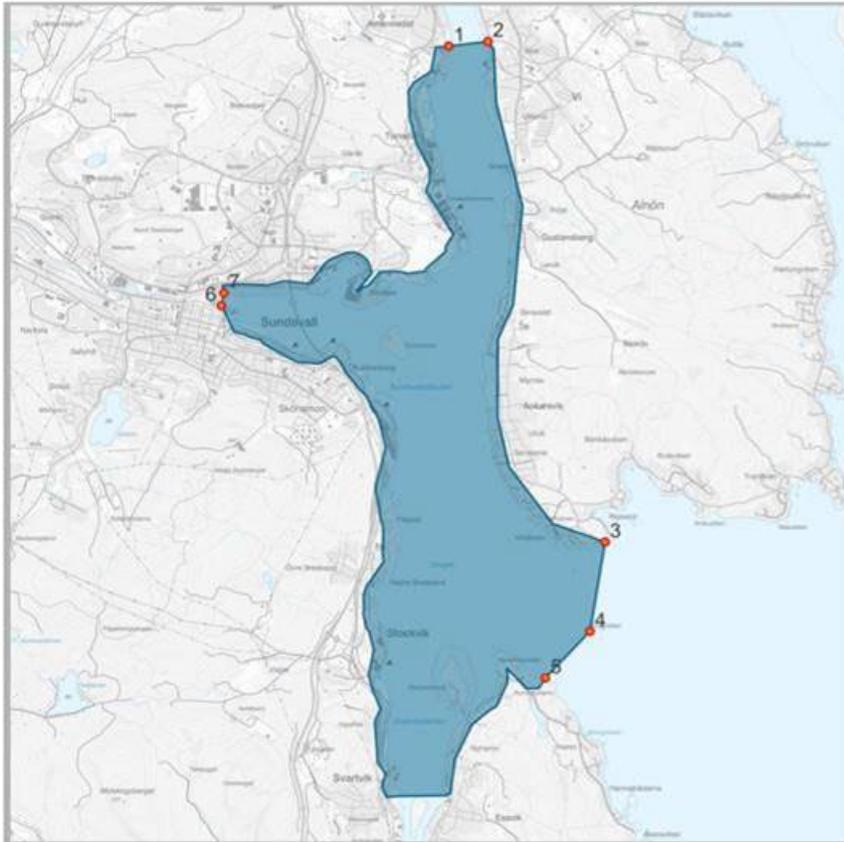
Relevant background information for the assessment

In addition to the above listed remedial measures to be assessed, Sweden implemented an annual prohibition for salmon fishing in the river Ljungan in 2019. In the same year Sweden implemented a prohibition for fishing with gillnet and sein net in the river. These measures are in force and are planned to be continued in 2024.

Furthermore, measures have been taken by the local Swedish management organizations in river Ljungan to minimize the risk for accidental catch of salmon in the recreational fishing with handheld gears targeting other species in the river. Those regulations include restrictions in time as well as technical regulations of allowed gears.

Finland continues to implement the management that since the 90's has limited fishing effort with trap-nets in SD 30 and 31. The management temporally and spatially restricts the number of trap-nets that can be used per fisher starting from one trap-net, continuing with two trap-nets and ending with four trap-nets. This management would as a new measure for 2024 also be applied in SD 29N and would therefore also be assessed as indicated in point 3.

Figure 1: Map of inner (first map) and outer (second map) protected areas outside the river Ljungan.



Ljungan och Selångersåns fredningsområde



Teckenförklaring

- Reglerat område
- Koordinater

	N	O
1.	62 25,950	17 23,508
2.	62 25,993	17 24,306
3.	62 21,234	17 26,700
4.	62 20,384	17 26,392
5.	62 19,939	17 25,479
6.	62 23,483	17 18,866
7.	62 23,805	17 18,916



Havs- och vattenmyndigheten
Länsträffnet



Ljungans yttre fredningsområde



Teckenförklaring

- Reglerat område
- Koordinater

	N	O
1.	62 22,620	17 31,606
2.	62 21,012	17 34,681
3.	62 14,170	17 39,502
4.	62 19,939	17 25,479
5.	62 20,384	17 26,392
6.	62 21,234	17 26,700



Havs- och vattenmyndigheten
Länsträffnet

Planning ICES	Please see below
ICES contact person	
WG(s) involved	WGBAST
Preparation timing	WGBAST meeting, first draft for external review: 20 th April
Review group	NA
Advice drafting group	29-30 April ADGBAST
ACOM Webex	WCBAST 23 May
Release date	31 May