



Cost-sharing agreement for participation in the International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas (ASH) in 2026

Having regard to:

- Article 5.1c of REGULATION (EU) 2017/1004 stipulating the establishment of thresholds below which it is not mandatory for Member States to carry out surveys at sea;
- Article 5.6 REGULATION (EU) 2017/1004 stipulating that these thresholds for stocks subject to catch limits shall be based upon the share of the relevant Member States in the TAC that are available for the Union;
- Chapter 1.2 of COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2021/1168 stipulating that the threshold for participation in a survey is set at 3% unless another threshold of up to 5% is agreed at marine region level
- Article 5.5 of REGULATION (EU) 2017/1004 stipulating that there is a need to avoid disruption of time series of data
- Chapter 1.1 of COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2021/1168 stipulating Member States shall ensure continuity with previous survey designs;
- Article 9.8 of REGULATION (EU) 2017/1004 stipulating that regional work plans may contain cost-sharing arrangements for participation in research surveys at sea
- Chapter 1.1 of COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2021/1168 listing the International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas (ASH) as a mandatory survey

Having acknowledged that:

- the scientific responsibility, as well as survey planning and reporting, lies with the ICES Working Group on International Pelagic Surveys;
- initial TAC shares by Member State for 2025 form the basis for cost-sharing in 2026.
- reference to this agreement is included in every relevant National or Regional Workplan.
- a staff exchange scheme based on TAC shares is included in this agreement to support future staff planning.

All costs incurred in connection with the staff exchanges are excluded from this agreement. The following Member States have agreed to share the vessel costs for the International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas (ASH): Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Cost-sharing model:

Cost-sharing is based on a cost-sharing key following the updated Gothenburg-model (RCG ISSG survey 2022¹).

This model will be applied to the vessel costs incurred by Denmark (survey carried out by R/V Dana) for the survey duration (total survey time, including calibration, vessel transfers, excluding mid-cruise breaks) for 2026. The respective vessel costs are based on the vessel's tariff of the preceding year.

¹ Report of the ISSG surveys, Gothenburg 2022



This tariff is based on the eligible costs as accepted by the EMFAF Managing Authority of the MS conducting the survey.

Force majeure:

If Denmark is unable to perform its obligations (in whole or partly) under the terms of this agreement because of circumstances or causes reasonably beyond its control, Denmark shall not be liable for any damages to the other parties in this agreement resulting from such failure to execute the survey. Unavoidable vessel costs related to the (planned) execution of the survey subject to this agreement will be distributed to the partners in this agreement based on the distribution key as established through this agreement.

Distribution key:

Application of the selected model for the distribution of the costs leads to the following key:

Species: Herring *Clupea harengus* (2025 shares, source: Regulation 2025/202 Annex 1b)

Herring TAC 1/2						
initial TACS based on Regulation 2025/202						
Member state	Area	<u>TAC 2025</u> <u>(tonnes)</u>	TAC share	Remarks	TAC for MS having share >3%	Redistributed percentage of share
Belgium	1/2	8	0.04%	Less than 3%		
Denmark	1/2	8,032	43.87%		8,032	46.24%
Germany	1/2	1,407	7.68%		1,407	8.10%
Spain	1/2	27	0.15%	Less than 3%		
France	1/2	347	1.90%	Less than 3%		
Ireland	1/2	2,080	11.36%		2,080	11.97%
The Netherlands	1/2	2,875	15.70%		2,875	16.55%
Poland	1/2	406	2.22%	Less than 3%		
Portugal	1/2	27	0.15%	Less than 3%		
Finland	1/2	124	0.68%	Less than 3%		
Sweden	1/2	2,977	16.26%		2,977	17.14%
European Union	1/2	18,310	100%	 (Ctrl) ▾	17,371	100.00%



Duration and governance:

This agreement covers cost-sharing for the 2026 International Ecosystem Survey in the Nordic Seas (ASH). Substantial changes to survey design, survey participations or substantial legal and/or financial amendments automatically lead to a review of this agreement. Duly justified, participating Member States may request a review. This survey falls under the remit of RCG North Atlantic & North Sea & Eastern Arctic (RCG NANSEA). As such, this agreement is part of the Regional Workplan for the North Atlantic & North Sea.

The National Institute responsible for the survey and the accompanying administration should send invoices to the MS concerned before November 1.

Staff exchange:

During the execution of the ASH survey, the contribution of staff from participating Member States is essential to ensure the completion of the required scientific crew. MS commit to maintaining this long-standing cooperation. To facilitate future staff planning by the contributing MS, the following table sets out the anticipated contributions by MS, expressed in number of staff, and based on the redistributed shares referred to above. On the assumption of eight persons per leg, a total of 16 positions require allocation. The table below provides an overview of the staff equivalents per MS for 2026 and 2027. As previously stated, the associated personnel costs are not covered by this agreement.

	Share	Equivalent staff assuming 8 each leg	2026 contribution (# staff)	2027 contribution (# staff)
DNK	46.24%	7.40	8	8
SWE	17.14%	2.74	2	3
NED	16.55%	2.65	3	2
IRL	11.97%	1.92	2	2
GER	8.10%	1.30	1	1

Following current practice, the different roles for each crew member will be discussed beforehand to allow for the most optimal crew composition.

Signatures:

Member State	Name	Date	Signature
Denmark	ANJA BØTE	24.09.25	
Germany	CHRISTOPH STRANSKY	24-09-2025	
Ireland	LINDA O'HGA	24.09.25	
Sweden The Netherlands	Sietse Vennema	24/9/2025	
The Netherlands Sweden	Anna Hasslöw	22/10/2025	