

Cost-sharing agreement for participation in the Blue Whiting Survey (IBWSS) 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 I.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 upon 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 I.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 I.1 of COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2021/1168 listing the Blue Whiting Survey 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.
- no alternative threshold for participation in the survey is agreed for 2026
- Spain is explicitly excluded from this agreement, based on the expressed wish not to participate in any form of cost-sharing, neither for the surveys covered under this agreement nor for the survey carried out by Spain.

The following Member States have agreed to share the vessel costs for the Blue Whiting Survey: Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Sweden

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 Ireland (survey carried out by R/V Celtic Explorer) and the Netherlands (survey carried out by R/V Tridens) for the duration of the survey (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. This tariff is based on the eligible costs as accepted by the EMFAF Managing Authority of the MS conducting the survey. The final amount will be

¹ Report of the ISSG surveys, Gothenburg 2022



calculated based on the vessel's tariff and the number of survey days, with a maximum of twenty-one days and a maximum daily rate of 22,500€ for Ireland and the Netherlands, respectively.

Force majeure:

In the event that Ireland and/or the Netherlands are unable to perform their obligations (in whole or partly) under the terms of this agreement because of circumstances or causes reasonably beyond their control, Ireland and the Netherlands shall not be liable for any damages to the other partners 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:

blue whiting TAC area 1X14

WHB initial TACS based on Regulation 2025/202

Member state	Area	TAC 2025 (tonnes)	TAC share	Remarks	TAC for MS having share >3% and excluding Spain	Redistributed percentage of share
Denmark	1X14	66,199	19.04%		66,199	23.12%
Germany	1X14	25,739	7.40%		25,739	8.99%
Spain	1X14	56,122	16.14%	No contribution		
France	1X14	46,070	13.25%		46,070	16.09%
Ireland	1X14	51,263	14.74%		51,263	17.90%
The Netherlands	1X14	80,723	23.22%		80,723	28.19%
Portugal	1X14	5,213	1.50%	No contribution		
Sweden	1X14	16,376	4.71%		16,376	5.72%
European Union	1X14	347,705	100%		286,370	100.00%

Duration and governance:

This agreement covers cost-sharing for the 2026 Blue Whiting Survey. Substantial changes to the survey design, survey participation, or substantial legal and/or financial amendments (including, but not exclusively, fuel prices) automatically lead to a review of this agreement. Duly justified, participating Member States may request a review.

This survey falls under the remit of the RCG North Atlantic & North Sea & Eastern Arctic (RCG NANSEA); as such, this agreement is part of the Regional work plan for this region. Due to national regulations, complementary arrangements may be needed between the MS involved in this cost-sharing. Invoices should be sent to the MS concerned by November 1 of the year the survey is carried out by the respective national institutes responsible for the survey and the accompanying administration.

Should Ireland and the Netherlands request EMFAF funding for this survey above their own share, Ireland and the Netherlands declare to deduct contributions made through this agreement from this request.

Signatures:

Member State	Name	Date	Signature
Denmark	ANJA ØYE	24.09.25	
France	ANNAÏS ROUSSEL	26/09/25	
Germany	CHRISTOPH STRANSKY	24.09.25	
Ireland	LINDA O'HEA	24-09-25	
The Netherlands	Sietje Verven	24/9/2025	
Sweden	Anna Hasslow	22/10/2025	