

Work programme for the Baltic Sea Advisory Council 2016 – 2017

General

The main focus of the year's work continues to be:

- Successful operation of the landing obligation in the Baltic
- Multi-annual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks, taking into account ecosystem interactions.
- Revision of the technical measures in the Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) will continue its involvement within the Common Fisheries Policy. It will also continue to work on establishing and strengthening practices in the new regionalised management, in particular according to Article 18 of the Basic Regulation: Regional cooperation on conservation measures.

The BSAC will continue to focus on these issues within its planned meetings and working groups.

It will also continue to maintain close collaboration and work with relevant organisations, institutions and fora (Commission, European Parliament, BALTFISH, ICES, European Fisheries Control Agency, STECF, HELCOM and the national scientific institutes), as well as relevant projects and related activities, to the extent that human resources, time and budget allow.

- **Selectivity in the demersal fishery and discards**

Selectivity in the cod fishery and the successful operation of the landing obligation continue to be the key issues for the BSAC. The BSAC has been pro-active in the implementation of the discard ban in the Baltic. It will continue to work closely with the regional cooperation established by BALTFISH and with the European Fisheries Control Agency. It will also continue to seek close cooperation with science in collaborative projects on the minimisation of discards and on technical improvements to selectivity. Work on selectivity can be further strengthened through the creation of a Focus Group on selectivity composed of experts and where examples of best practices can be gathered.

- **Multi species management plan**

The Commission's proposal for a multi-annual management plan for cod, herring and sprat, put forward in October 2014, has been the subject of intense negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament. The BSAC has lamented the time that this has taken and has encouraged the negotiators to reach an agreement

The BSAC will continue its involvement and work towards the adoption of the plan for the Baltic.

- **Technical measures for the Baltic Sea fisheries**

In line with the new Basic Regulation 1380/2013 and the provisions for the development of multi-annual management plans, there is a need to revise the existing regulations on technical measures. The Commission has already invited input to the development of a new technical measures framework for the Baltic and the BSAC provided input during the year 2015-2016. The BSAC will continue to deal with this during the Work Programme 2016-2017.

- **Salmon management plan**

Contrary to expectations during the Work Programme year 2015-2016, the EU Presidency has not dealt with the Commission's proposal for a salmon management plan which was presented in 2011 (COM (2011) 470). The BSAC is ready to get involved in this.

- ***Conference: the environmental situation in the Baltic and its impact on fisheries.***

The BSAC did not secure funding for this conference in the year 2015-2016. It has re-applied for funding in 2016. This will determine whether the conference can take place and to what extent the BSAC can supplement own funding to the event.

- **Other topics and subjects of relevance to the BSAC**

These can be dealt with within existing working groups or can be the subject of a specific working group/seminar:

- Management of fisheries in marine protected areas/Natura 2000 areas
- Further work with ecosystem based fisheries management
- Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Baltic
- Integrated sea use management/maritime spatial planning
- Control and inspection issues relating to the Control Regulation 1224/2009
- Data collection: actions and initiatives which can contribute to the collection of data in general as well as of discard data for the purpose of the development of conservation measures
- Health and safe in the fisheries sector
- Marine litter

Meetings/activities provisionally planned and to be budgeted for:

- 1 General Assembly
- 4 Executive Committee meetings (*if we can afford 4*)
- 1 Conference/seminar
- 4 Working Groups
- Management meetings during the year where necessary (prior to ExCom if possible)

**Provisional meeting/activity agenda:
(BSAC welcomes help with the provision of meeting rooms)**

Meeting	What for	Date	Place
Joint Demersal and Pelagic WG	<i>Selectivity and discards policy and or multi-species management work or other</i>	Spring	Tbd
Executive Committee (the day before the General Assembly)	<i>Preparatory meeting for General Assembly</i>	26 th April 2016	Hamburg
General Assembly	<i>Annual meeting</i>	26 th April 2016	Hamburg
Joint Demersal and Pelagic WG	<i>To deal with the annual Baltic stock advice</i>	13th-14 th June 2016	Copenhagen
Executive Committee	<i>Adoption of advice and other matters</i>	July 2016	Copenhagen
Joint Demersal and Pelagic WG /or other WG	<i>Selectivity and or multi-species management issues or other</i>	Autumn 2016	Tbd
Conference/seminar	<i>Environment factors</i>	Autumn 2016/Spring 2017	Tbd
Executive Committee	<i>Management/business meeting</i>	October/ November 2016	Tbd
Executive Committee (if funding available)	<i>Management/business meeting</i>	January/ February 2017	Tbd
(Joint) Working Group or other WG	<i>Selectivity and discards policy and or multi-species management work or other such as salmon</i>	Early 2017	Tbd