

**BSAC Executive Committee and General Assembly**  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
**Stockholm**  
**Summary of proceedings**

**The BSAC** held its **Executive Committee and General Assembly** on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Stockholm, thanks to the hospitality of the Swedish government.

**Reine Johansson, the BSAC chair** chaired the ExCom.

**Steve Karnicki, the BSAC honorary chair** led the General Assembly

Both meetings were attended by BSAC members, Member State representatives from Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Germany and Denmark, DG Mare and several observers.

In his opening statement at the General Assembly, **the Honorary Chair** stated that the BSAC has a clear view on what the technical measures for the Baltic should look like. He added that there is an urgent need to introduce modified gear into practice as soon as possible. He welcomed the newly established sub-group on ecosystem based management. He hoped that the BSAC would discuss the future of Baltic fisheries with calmness and suitable language.

**Sara Colliander, Fisheries Director for Sweden** welcomed the BSAC to Stockholm. and underlined that cooperation at all levels is the key for a successful implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. Cooperation within BALTFISH is still quite new and is a steep learning curve. The input from the BSAC is invaluable and appreciated by the Baltic Sea States. The most pressing issues right now are the finalisation of the new discard plan and the facilitation of the landing obligation in the Baltic Sea, including the development of alternative selective fishing gear designs/constructions.

**Evangelia Georgitsi, DG Mare** gave an update on current issues: publication of the draft delegated act amending the delegated regulation on the functioning of the Advisory Councils, work in progress on the technical measures regulation and the forthcoming Commission Communication on fishing opportunities.

**Reine Johansson, BSAC Chair** presented the annual report for the BSAC year 2016-2017 and the key areas of work during the year. Referring to technical measures he stated that the BSAC had succeeded in producing recommendations and encouraged all those involved in the negotiations to make a concerted effort to reach agreement. On consensus within the BSAC, he expressed the view that the BSAC should try to reach consensus. He underlined that BSAC members must respect each other's views and work together.

**Joakim Hjelm** from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences gave his personal reflection of the evolution of the landing obligation in the Baltic. In his presentation, he explained the difficulties experienced with implementing the Landing Obligation and he put forward reasons as to why, from the perspective of science, management and the fishermen.

After recommendation from the ExCom, the General Assembly approved the BSAC Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2016-2017.

Also after recommendation from the ExCom, the General Assembly approved the draft estimated operating budget and work programme for the year 2017-2018. It included agreement to use resources for whispering interpretation. The General Assembly amended the BSAC statutes to have the possibility to extend the ExCom to 30 members and approved the membership of the Association of Fisheries Protection as member of the ExCom.

The Working group chairs presented their reports from the working groups for the year 2016 -2017.

The ExCom discussed additional compensation to small scale fisheries representatives, but did not reach a conclusion and agreed to revert to this.

The ExCom did not reach a decision on the nomination of Andrzej Białas (OCEANA) as vice chair, but will revert to this to a later meeting.

The ExCom unanimously approved Nils Hoglund (CCB) as chair of the BSAC ecosystem based sub-group.

The ExCom concluded that the organisation Danish Aquaculture was represented through the newly created Aquaculture Advisory Council.

The ExCom also discussed its representation at external meetings, but did not reach any conclusion other than to continue good practices and dialogue.

The ExCom and General Assembly thanked the secretariat, the chair, honorary chair and the outgoing vice chair for their work during the year.

The ExCom and General Assembly concluded by fully recognizing the difficult situation which faces in particular the cod fisheries sector in the Baltic, and called on the Member States to address this and work towards finding an appropriate solution.