



Pelagic AC

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Date: 27 October 2015
Our reference: 1516/PAC 05
Subject: Request to openly discuss control

Dear Fisheries Directors of BALTFISH, the North Western Waters Regional Group, South Western Waters regional group and SCHEVENINGEN,

As a principle of good governance, stakeholder involvement is firmly enshrined in the Basic Regulation of the Common Fisheries Policy (Recital 14) and both the Commission and Member States are obliged to ensure the *“appropriate involvement of stakeholders, in particular Advisory Councils, at all stages-from conception to implementation of measures”* (Article 3f).

Ensuring the implementation of appropriate monitoring, control and enforcement measures is one of the top priorities for both the Baltic Sea and the Pelagic Advisory Council. In order to meet the requirements of the Basic Regulation, we call on the Member States to involve stakeholders in the process. The successful implementation of measures requires the support by all players affected.

We would appreciate very much that you share the reports from the regional control expert groups and that you meet with representatives of the Advisory Councils so that we can together find workable solutions to the many complex challenges. The North Western Waters regional group and the Scheveningen group have already taken the lead and submitted the recommendations from the control expert groups to the Pelagic Advisory Council in order to seek input on this matter and have expressed willingness to meet with representatives of the Pelagic Advisory Council. This initiative is highly appreciated and further similar initiatives will be welcome.



Cooperation and exchange of knowledge and practical experience has become even more important because of the landing obligation and the requirement to develop discard plans which can be successfully implemented and enforced. We are very appreciative of the initiatives taken by the European Fisheries Control Agency to hold meetings for Member States, Advisory Council representatives and Commission to discuss and exchange experiences so far with the landing obligation.

We seek transparency and collaboration at all stages of the governance process, as foreseen in the CFP. So we call upon the Member States to invite participation of Advisory Councils to the relevant meetings and to make the technical reports available to the Advisory Councils.

We look forward to receiving your response to our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ian Gatt'.

Ian Gatt
Chair Pelagic AC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Reine Johansson'.

Reine Johansson
Chair Baltic Sea AC

Copy to DG Mare and European Fisheries Control Agency