



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions
Director

Brussels,
MARE C1/SJ/vr/Ares(2018)

Baltic Sea AC
Mr Reine Johansson
(Chairperson)
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Subject: The quota allocations for shared stocks in the Baltic Sea

Your ref: Letter from R. Johansson dated 8 December 2017

Dear Mr Johansson,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 8 December 2017 concerning the allocation of fishing opportunities between the EU and the Russian Federation in 2018 in the Baltic Sea. Let me first of all apologize for the delayed reply. The delay is caused by the fact that this year we received the information you requested from our Russian colleagues later than usual.

You will find the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation establishing the Russian quotas for the Baltic Sea in 2018 in the annex to this letter. Unfortunately at this time of the year we are not aware of the catches to be made by Russian fishermen in 2018. We can presume and hope that their catches will not exceed the quotas allocated for the same year.

I would like to specify that the information on allocation of quotas is exchanged between the EU and the Russian Federation in October - November of every year. This is done after the decisions are taken by the respective authorities and published officially. As you rightly mentioned, the Russian quota allocation process is subject to independent and extensive ecological expertise. This forms a part of the internal process which is not public. Therefore the documents of this expertise are not provided to the European Commission for information and therefore cannot be forwarded to the Baltic Sea Advisory Council.

Lastly, I would like once again to emphasize that there is no agreement reached between the EU and the Russian Federation on allocation keys of the shared stocks. Due to the absence of such an agreement both parties, i.e. the EU and the Russian Federation, set the quotas unilaterally. Nevertheless, in order to ensure sustainability and avoid overexploitation of the shared stocks, the EU continues to set quotas for the EU vessels taking into account the respective allocation keys applicable at the time when the shared fish stocks were managed by the International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission.

I hope that I was able to clarify the matter sufficiently for you.

Yours sincerely,

Hélène Clark