



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE.C1/AK/ds/Ares(2021)

Mr Esben Sverdrup-Jensen  
Chair BSAC Executive Committee  
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**Subject: BSAC's recommendation of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 for sticklebacks (your reference BSAC/2020-2021/28)**

Dear Mr Sverdrup-Jensen,

Thank you very much for your letter and the Baltic Sea Advisory Council's (BSAC) recommendation of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 by which BSAC would like to encourage a trial fishery in the Baltic Sea for sticklebacks.

As you know, my colleagues closely follow the discussions in the BSAC. We are therefore well aware of the discussions about sticklebacks. The recommendation mentions relevant considerations of such a trial fishery, notably the ecosystem considerations and the rules of the Technical Measures Regulation (EU) 2019/1241. Since a mesh size would need to be used, which is currently not allowed, such a trial fishery would have to be strictly limited to scientific purposes and be in conformity with the general and conservation objectives of the Technical Measures Regulation as well as the conditions set out in Article 25 of that Regulation.

The recommendation mentions that Denmark and Sweden are considering undertaking such a trial fishery for sticklebacks. Unless the envisaged scientific trial fishery was not in conformity with the applicable rules, it could be undertaken after each flag Member State would have pre-informed the Commission and the coastal Member States in accordance with Article 25 of the Technical Measures Regulation.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation and invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 56273) should you have any further question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA