



To the Fisheries Directors of the BALTFISH Member States  
To DG Mare: Carla Montesi, Ilona Jepsena

Copenhagen 29th November 2013

Dear Fisheries Directors, Carla Montesi and Ilona Jepsena,

Regionalisation is one of the pillars of the latest reform of the CFP and from the very beginning, starting with the Green Paper, we have supported this in the BSRAC. It is crucial for us to see it work in practice up to 2020.

We are very pleased with the way in which regional cooperation is developing in the Baltic. The BS RAC has several years of experience as a stakeholder body. BALTFISH has also been meeting for a few years, and the BS RAC has been participating regularly in the meetings of the BALTFISH Forum.

BALTFISH is now finalizing the wording of its Memorandum of Understanding, which will be presented at the Fisheries Council in December. The next meeting of the BALTFISH High Level Group (HLG) is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.

We are writing in advance of that meeting to seek inclusion in the text of the MoU reference to the BS RAC as a permanent active observer in the meetings of the HLG. The BS RAC should be present at the BALTFISH HLG in order for us to give our positions from the RAC. At the HLG we want to have representation from both stakeholder groups of the RAC. We fully respect the wish for the HLG to meet on exceptional occasions as head of delegations meetings in which the BS RAC will not be present. Our intention is to seek transparency and collaboration in the decision-making process at all levels, and that includes participation in the BALTFISH HLG. This will not exclude participation of the BS RAC members in seminars and other meetings organized by BALTFISH.

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council

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**Note from the BS RAC Secretariat: TO SAVE MONEY AND PAPER, PLEASE ONLY PRINT IF NECESSARY**

We hope that you will respond to this very strong request put to you by the BS RAC Executive Committee as one voice, based on the excellent experience from the days of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission.

We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



Reine J. Johansson  
Chairman of the BS RAC



Ewa Milewska  
Vice-chair of the BS RAC