

## **Recommendations**

on the TACs for the  
Baltic Sea fish stocks in 2008

This paper contains the BS RAC recommendations on the TACs for the Baltic Sea fish stocks in 2008. The recommendations were agreed by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in Copenhagen, following presentations of the biological advice from ICES and the Commission's Policy Statement on fishing opportunities in 2008.

### **Cod in Subdivisions 22-24**

The BS RAC recommends a TAC of 22,695 tonnes (-15%) based on the agreed multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and ICES's interpretation of the proposed management plan (the advice from ICES was made before the Multi-annual plan was agreed by the Council).

### **Cod in Subdivisions 25-32**

The BS RAC recommends a TAC of 50,945 tonnes (+15%) based on ICES's interpretation of the proposed Multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea.

A minority<sup>1</sup> of RAC members recommends a decrease of the TAC by 15% based on the fact that the stock is still below the limit reference point for the spawning stock biomass.

### **Herring in Subdivisions 22-24**

The BSRAC recommends a roll-over of the TAC (49,500 tonnes).

The RAC finds that time is not ready for a reduction of TAC unless this reduction is driven by a reduction in stock size. The RAC is looking forward to participate actively in the preparation of a long term management plan.

### **Herring in Subdivisions 25-29 and 32 (excluding 28.1 (Gulf of Riga))**

The BS RAC recommends an increase of 15% in the TAC, resulting in an EU quota of 152,626 tonnes, based on the biological advice from ICES and the Commission Policy Statement about stabilising fishing opportunities from one year to the next.

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<sup>1</sup> The Fisheries Secretariat, WWF and Coalition Clean Baltic

### **Herring in Subdivision 28.1 (Gulf of Riga)**

The BSRAC recommends a TAC of 31,875 tonnes (-15%) based on the biological advice from ICES and the principles to stabilise fishing opportunities from one year to the next.

A minority<sup>2</sup> of members recommended a roll-over of the TAC.

### **Herring in Subdivisions 30-31**

The BS RAC recommends a roll-over of the TAC (91,600 tonnes), based on the fact that the larger of the two stocks (Subdivision 30) is above the precautionary reference point and that the stock in Subdivision 31 makes up such a small fraction of the TAC.

### **Sprat in Subdivisions 22-32**

The BS RAC recommends a roll-over of the TAC, i.e. an EU quota of 454,492 tonnes. The stock has been very strong for many years and the spawning stock biomass is more than 4 times the precautionary level (Bpa). A roll-over of the TAC will according to ICES maintain SSB at the current high level.

### **Salmon in Subdivisions 22-31**

The BS RAC recommends a decrease of the TAC by 15%, i.e. an EU quota of 364,392 specimens. This is based on the scientific evaluation report showing that sea survival of the salmon in the main basin is reduced.

The BS RAC also recommends that national measures to limit fisheries around the river mouths of the most sensitive wild salmon stocks are implemented.

### **Salmon in Subdivision 32**

The BS RAC recommends a decrease of the TAC by 15%. This will result in an EU TAC of 13,106 specimens.

The BS RAC also recommends that national measures to minimise any catches of wild salmon are implemented.

A minority<sup>3</sup> of members recommend a roll-over of the TAC.

### **Plaice in Subdivisions 22-32**

The BS RAC recommends a roll-over of the TAC, i.e. an EU quota of 3,766 tonnes.

### **Bilateral agreement with Russia**

The BS RAC recommends that the management rules and principles applied within the EU should also be applied in negotiations on a bilateral agreement with Russia on Baltic Sea stocks.

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<sup>2</sup> Latvian Fisheries Association

<sup>3</sup> Finnish Fishermen's Association and Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations