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BSAC 2022-2023/29

Copenhagen, Friday 18th November 2022

Subject: **BSAC recommendations on BALTFISH Presidency work plan**

Dear Ieva,

The BSAC wanted to thank you for your availability and the way you engaged with the BSAC since the start of your Presidency. The BSAC was invited to present its work priorities during the BALTFISH Forum Meeting on the 6th September and this was a great occasion to exchange on key topics.

The BALTFISH Presidency Work Plan adopted is thorough and ambitious. The BSAC appreciates the inclusion of its work priorities in it.

In particular, BSAC welcomes the inclusion of monthly meeting updates (so called “Virtual Coffee Meetings”) between the Management Team and the BALTFISH Presidency, and the proposal to hold an expert group with BSAC on predator issues (seals and cormorants) before May 2023.

The focus on stickleback and the consultation of stakeholders through BSAC for the drafting of Joint Recommendations are also to very valuable points.

Furthermore, we would like to bring in additional input on some topics.

1. The western Baltic herring rebuilding plan:

The BSAC sent to the European Commission on the 28th October further details on the recommendation for western Baltic herring¹. The management decisions for this stock are key to the stakeholders.

¹ <http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/c8622593-8756-42ea-971c-b418124eff62/PelagicWGlettertoCOMWBHerring2022-2023-27.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

2. The BSAC recommendations on eel

The BSAC recommendations have been issued on eel in May 2022² and we anticipate important discussions with you following the release of the ICES advice on the 3rd November.

3. The Multiannual salmon management plan

The BSAC looks forward to the precisions of the next step on the Multiannual salmon management plan. BSAC comments on the draft Joint Recommendations have been sent to BALTFISH on the 26th October.

4. Implementing act to Regulation 2019/1241

BSAC would welcome an additional work item to set up the BALTFISH-BSAC Expert Focus Group to discuss the draft implementing act to Regulation 2019/1241. This is to follow up on the latest answer from the Commission on the topic in July this year³.

5. Article 7 of the Council Regulation 2021/1888 fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea

For the third time, the closures to protect cod spawning will take place in 2023 with some exemptions possible. BSAC would be interested to hear from BALTFISH members what approaches they will have with regards to the implementation of these exemptions and under what conditions they will be possible. To help stakeholders understand what to expect, with a transparent and level playing field approach, BSAC would re-call for a roundtable with Member States detailing their plans.

Finally, we will remain available to join you in the examination of the ICES advice on fishing opportunities for 2024.

Attached to this letter is the work plan with the BSAC comments directly added in the document.

I look forward to the continued implementation of this promising Work Plan and to further collaboration.

Kind regards,



Jarek Zieliński
Chair BSAC Executive Committee

² http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/ff026f8b-1bb9-461f-8bdb-2bb85dcc71d9/BSACChairLetterandrecseel22-23_5Complete.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

³ <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/Technical-measures-and-the-draft-Implementing-Act>