

To: Bernhard Friess, Acting Director-General  
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

By e mail

cc. Mme Pascale Colson

Copenhagen Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

BSAC 2020-2021/8

Ares (2020) 2420968 – 07/05/2020

**Ref: BSAC statement on the need for a responsible approach to fisheries and fisheries management in the Baltic – reply to the Director General**

Dear Bernhard Friess,

Thank you very much for your letter of reply to the above statement from the BSAC.

I appreciate the fact that you welcome and agree with the overall thrust of the message which the BSAC - with its diverse stakeholder views - sent in one voice: calling for compliance with the legal requirements, including the landing obligation, and for management decisions that are proportionate and pragmatic.

You highlight the difficulties facing several fisheries in the Baltic Sea. There are also particular challenges surrounding by-catches and the use of more selective gears which need discussion with a view to finding common solutions. Your encouragement to the BSAC to work together with BALTFISH on this is welcome and we will follow up. We look forward to the next Forum meeting in June with BALTFISH under the Finnish Presidency.

We are keen to work together to reach consensus on solutions and ways forward. Our dialogue in the BSAC is open and sometimes forthright and we note the differences of opinion and approach in the context of the BSAC advice and recommendations.

As BSAC chair, I would also like find an opportunity to discuss with you and your colleagues in more detail some of the topics that you raise:

- the stock situation for eastern Baltic cod, including management by means of bycatch quotas,
- the western Baltic herring (we recently addressed a letter to the Commission about the utility of a rebuilding plan for this stock),
- the non-fisheries factors that you refer to.

So, I would like to suggest a meeting with you, so we can take the dialogue further. The current COVID-19 situation still makes travel impossible. I hope that we can find a date for an actual meeting, or else arrange one by web conference at your convenience.

Thank you for the good cooperation with the BSAC.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen,  
BSAC Executive Committee chair