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And to BALTFISH Member States and DG Mare

BSAC 2020-2021/18

Copenhagen Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Kaire,

First of all, I want to thank you for an excellent BALTFISH Forum meeting organised by you and your colleagues. It gave me a good opportunity to present the BSAC recommendations, and to raise other important issues for the Baltic fisheries and management.

During my interventions, I referred to the spawning closures for cod, and the need to better understand their effects, by means of an evaluation. I also raised this matter at our recent Executive Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. I asked representative of fisheries, as well as recreational, sports fishermen and anglers to send replies as soon as possible to four key questions:

1. What kind of effects have you experienced from the fishing closures?
2. Have you found some areas more problematic than others? If so, which?
3. What kind of solutions (if any) have you found to lessen the effect of the stops?
4. What would the BSAC recommend for the footnotes for 2021, while maintaining protection for cod?

I am very pleased to send you a composite reply from a broad cross-section of members who have taken part. It takes the form of current experience and recommendations. We look forward to discussing this further with you.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen  
BSAC Executive Committee chair