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By e mail

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Copenhagen 8th December 2017

Dear Helène Clark,

With the approval of the BSAC Executive Committee, I am writing to you in connection with the last meeting of the Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Committee between the EU and the Russian Federation which took place in Brussels between 3rd and 6th July 2017. A BSAC representative took part at the meeting as observer and reported back to the BSAC ExCom and highlighted the need to seek further clarification from the Commission on certain aspects.

In particular, the BSAC would like to know what fishing opportunities have been allocated to the Russian Federation in 2018 in the Baltic Sea and what the planned catches are by Russia for 2018. According to our knowledge, this information is given to the EU Commission every year in the autumn. The ICES advice, published at the end of May every year, includes the Russian quota in the calculations of catch options. Getting the information already in the autumn on the Russian quotas for the following year would help us to understand the quota setting agreed by EU politicians and the Commission and at the same time would give us a more informed and accurate basis on which to prepare the BSAC recommendations for the fishery.

At the above-mentioned meeting in July, the Russian Federation also informed that the system it uses for establishing the Russian fishing opportunities is set according to an independent and ecological review of all the data relating to quota setting. The Russian data feeds into the ICES advisory process. However, the BSAC would also like to see the review produced by Russia in order to get a broader perspective and a clearer picture of the quota setting procedure and method.

Allocations between the EU and the Russian Federation follow agreements made under the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission. Our strong interest is to see the agreements observed by all parties, so as to ensure a sustainable exploitation of the Baltic fisheries resources on the basis of a fair and equitable distribution.

I look forward to hearing from you and remain at your disposal for any further clarification you may want from our side.

Kind regards,



Reine J. Johansson

Chair of the BSAC Executive Committee