

To the BALTFISH Presidency  
Herki Tuus  
Director General and BALTFISH Chair

To Director-General Ms Charlina Vitcheva  
D.G. for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, MARE.D.3/KP  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Ref: BSAC/2020-2021/22

Copenhagen Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Herki Tuus,  
Dear Charlina Vitcheva,

**Subject: BSAC recommendations concerning mitigation measures for Baltic Sea harbour porpoise**

I want to thank the BALTFISH Presidency and DG Mare very much for consulting the BSAC on issues relating to the conservation status of Baltic Sea harbour porpoise.

The BSAC has taken this matter very seriously. The Ecosystem Based Management Working Group in September went through the ICES special request advice on mitigation measures to prevent bycatch of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise, and dealt with the draft revised BALTFISH Presidency Joint Recommendation. We very much appreciated the participation of ACOM vice-chair Henn Ojaveer to present the ICES advice, and the in-depth discussions that members had with him. We also appreciated that the BALTFISH chair took part at the Working Group, and elaborated on the details of the BALTFISH revised draft.

A consolidated advice was drafted and sent to the Executive Committee for comments in a written procedure, following our working procedures. I am satisfied that the final set of recommendations goes well beyond statements from the Working Group meeting, and that everyone has had the chance to submit comments.

Please find the recommendations attached. ./.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, Chair BSAC Executive Committee