

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/2020-2021/21
Your Ref: Ares (2020) 5008233 – 24/09/2020

Copenhagen Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Subject: the conservation status of the harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea

Thank you very much for your letter of 24th September 2020 concerning the above.

I want to underline that the BSAC takes this matter very seriously.

This week, the BSAC Ecosystem Based Management Working Group met and discussed the ICES special request advice on mitigation measures to prevent bycatch of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise, (presented by ACOM vice-chair Henn Ojaveer). It also discussed the draft revised BALTFISH Presidency Joint Recommendation.

The BSAC Secretariat and the EBM WG chair are currently drafting a BSAC response, with the aim of meeting the tight deadline set by BALTFISH to provide input.

We are doing our best. At the same time, we are conscious of the need to develop consolidated advice which goes beyond statements from the meeting, and in a way that ensures we consult the members according to our working procedures.

We look forward to sending you our views and advice as soon as possible.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
Chair BSAC Executive Committee

Copy to: DG Mare Baltic Unit, BALTFISH Member States