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Ref: BSAC/2021-2022/21

Copenhagen Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

**Subject: BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic for 2022: this time for western Baltic cod and the Baltic salmon stocks**

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

First of all, thank you for coming to our BSAC General Assembly last week. For the BSAC this delayed annual meeting was long-awaited, and the pleasure of being together in the same room (and with a link to our members and observers online) was almost tangible.

Thank you for your presentation to the BSAC. It is always a pleasure to hear that you appreciate and value the work of the Advisory Councils, and in this case the BSAC as an example of a well-functioning AC.

As the Danish Minister Rasmus Prehn stated in his presentation to the General Assembly, you also made clear the challenges facing the Baltic, and the serious state of some of the stocks.

It is a complicated picture this year, and the delay in the release of some of the advice has not made the work for the BSAC any easier, nor the coming preparations of the October Council.

Time for preparation, discussion and elaboration of the BSAC recommendations has been limited, and it is challenging to work with such short deadlines.

Nevertheless, I am pleased to attach to this letter recommendations for the western Baltic cod and for the two Baltic salmon stocks. ./.

It is clear from the text that it has not been possible to reach consensus on the recommendations for the fishing opportunities. There are nevertheless two clear consensus messages that I would like to underline here.

In connection with the work and discussions on the cod and the interaction with the flatfish fishery I want again to stress the urgent need for swift action on selectivity. In your presentation to the BSAC General Assembly you underlined the importance of work on more selective gears to avoid undersized and unwanted bycatch. Together, we need to find solutions that reduce bycatch. We need to approve, adopt and implement as soon as possible new gears that have been tested and meet the required selectivity. The BSAC and BALTFISH will be holding a technical meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to discuss in more detail the elements of the BALTFISH draft Joint Recommendation on technical measures for the Baltic demersal trawl fishery.<sup>1</sup> Due to the technical complexity of the Joint Recommendation, the BSAC has asked for and agreed with BALTFISH on this. We will be happy to send the invitation to DG Mare.

In connection with the salmon stocks, the key issue for the BSAC is the need to initiate work on developing a management plan. Examination of renewed management of the Baltic salmon in all the Baltic sub-divisions is of paramount importance.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen  
Chair BSAC Executive Committee

Copy to: DG Mare Baltic Unit, BALTFISH Member States, Fisheries Council of the European Community, European Parliament, European Fisheries Control Agency, ICES and HELCOM

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-BALTFISH-Technical-meeting-on-technical-measu>