

Copenhagen presented to Ex Com 28th June 2018/BSAC 2018-2019/9

BSAC replies to questions from DG Mare on choke species

Who answered	What are the possible choke cases in 2019?	Propose how they can be avoided for 2019	What technical and avoidance measures for improved selectivity have already been undertaken?	Other comments
Coalition Clean Baltic, Nils Höglund				The MS themselves have said several times that there is no choke problem and that current tools available can handle anything that comes up. The species and the issue are potentially linked to sprat/herring, plaice (/cod) and salmon (Gulf of Finland, Estonia). But all of it may well be a non-issue if swaps etc. work.
Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation and The Fishermen's Association of Bornholm and Christiansø, Kim Kær Hansen, Thomas Thomsen, Michael Andersen	For the time being, under current conditions, DFPO and Fishermen's Association of Bornholm and Christiansø don't experience any problems with choke species.			

Estonian Fishermen's Association, Mart Undrest	Plaice	Swaps		Estonia has no plaice quota, so if we were to fish cod, then there would be plaice as by-catch.
Swedish Fishermen PO, Malin Skog + Staffan Larsson	Not a big problem for us in the Baltic.			
Latvian Fisheries Association, Inarijs Voits	We have no problems.			
Darlowska Group of Fish Producers and Shipowners, Rafał Bocheński	Not present in the gillnet and handline fisheries.		Mesh size in gillnet set for cod at minimum 110 mm.	
Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations, Malin Lönnroth				Sprat is currently a choke species for herring fisheries. With a slight proposed rise in the sprat quota for 2019 and a likely reduction in herring fisheries in 2019, sprat will probably not form a problem in the coming year.

<p>The Fisheries Secretariat, Lindsay Keenan</p>				<p>We are not aware of any choke species issues in the Baltic and note that the BSAC Demersal working group chair stated at the Working group meeting in Tallinn on 11-12th June that he is also not aware of any exiting or potential choke species problems in the Baltic.</p>
<p>Union of German Cutter Fishery + German Cutter- and Coastal-Fishermen's Association, Peter Breckling and Benjamin Schmöde</p>	<p>No problems with 2019 chokes under current conditions</p>			
<p>The Confederation of Fishermen and Fish Processors of West Lithuania, Algirdas Ausra</p>	<p>There are no choke problems for us in the Baltic Sea.</p>			