

To DG Mare, DG Environment  
Member States around the Baltic  
By e mail

Copenhagen Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

BSAC/2019-2020/7

Dear Commission and dear Baltic Member States,

**BSAC basic principles on the development of the fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 and protected areas**

Earlier this year, the BSAC held a working group on ecosystem based management. It dealt in detail with the status of fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas and protected areas in the Baltic. The main item of the meeting was to update and discuss an overview of the fisheries management measures as well as the processes involved when developing new measures.

This meeting was well attended and well received in terms of the subject matter. Informative presentations were made by Member State representatives and by HELCOM. We were very pleased to welcome representatives from Member States, the Commission and HELCOM at this meeting and we hope that we can continue this collaboration and exchange of information.

The meeting culminated in the drafting of some basic principles to follow when developing fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 and protected areas. It has taken us some time to finalise these principles, because we have taken care to consult the BSAC Executive Committee and to arrive at a simplified and focused list. It includes a call for transparency in the process, as measures are identified and developed, as well as the involvement of the BSAC from an early stage.

We are very pleased to attach to this letter the agreed principles and we hope that they can serve a useful purpose as an aide mémoire to the work, as administrations deal with this important subject.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen  
Chair BSAC Executive Committee



Andrzej Bialas  
Vice Chair BSAC Executive Committee

Copy to HELCOM, ICES, European Parliament Fisheries Committee, European Fisheries Control Agency