



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
MARE/DIR GEN D(2011)

Mr Reine J. Johansson
Chairman of the BS RAC

Ms Ewa Milewska
Vice-Chair of the BS RAC

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd floor
1553 Copenhagen V
Denmark

Dear Mr Johansson,
Dear Ms Milewska,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November concerning the outcome of the Baltic RAC's recent Working Group meeting in relation to misreporting of catches in the Baltic salmon fishery. We recognise that misreporting of catches is an important issue that has a negative impact on the sustainability of the salmon fishery in the Baltic and we welcome your support in our efforts to address the issue.

As you are aware, during the Fisheries Council in October, the Council of Ministers and the Commission agreed on a statement to reinforce control of salmon and sea trout taking into account the information received from the scientific bodies on the very serious issue of misreporting of catches. Member States committed to enforce effectively the rules on salmon fisheries in the Baltic Sea and to carry out a control, inspection and surveillance programme concerning this fishery. The Commission will monitor that Member States in the region do indeed implement the agreed measures.

I am also pleased to inform you that we intend to include the monitoring of the salmon fishery in the new Specific Control and Inspection Programme for the Baltic Sea which will be tabled in March 2012 to the Fisheries and Control Committee. The Commission counts on support from the Member States for rapid adoption of these measures and their commitment to ensure their strict application.

With regard to the statement, the Commission will verify Member States' compliance with their catch reporting and recording obligations and appropriate procedures will be taken to ensure that overfishing of Baltic salmon is eradicated.

We welcome your support to address these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowri Evans', written in a cursive style.

Lowri EVANS