

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK

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Dear Reine J. Johansson,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2017 regarding technical measures used for the fishery in the Baltic Sea.

First, let me take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year and thank you for the good and constructive cooperation with your organization. I am looking forward to continuing our excellent cooperation and I certainly appreciate the initiatives taken to organize a joint BALTFISH BSAC workshop on recreational fishery in the Baltic Sea end of January here in Copenhagen.

I am aware that technical measures and selectivity for many years have been of major concern to fishermen, and in the Baltic Sea, in particular for fishermen using BACOMA and the T90 trawls.

The Commission presented its proposal on a new framework regulation on technical measures back in March 2016 and at the Plenary Meeting on 16 January 2018, the European Parliament adopted its proposal for changes. The negotiations will continue in the so-called trilogue forum with participation from the Council, The European Parliament and the Commission and final adoption awaits agreement among the three parties.

Neither the Council nor the European Parliament have so far agreed to or proposed to change the mesh size from the current 120 mm to 110 mm in the cod end for the BACOMA and T90 trawls. In addition, during the negotiations, the Baltic Sea Member States expressed different views on the

proposal on mesh sizes, and the differences in views will most likely occur in future negotiations.

As long as the proposal containing all future measures is not adopted, the Danish BALTFISH Presidency does not intend to address technical measures within the framework of the new regulation. Denmark holds the BALTFISH Presidency until end of June this year and most likely, the new regulation will not be adopted before.

A way forward to make it possible to use alternative gears deviating from the current provisions could be to continue the work in a regionalized process and to develop proposals as the one recently adopted for the use of alternative T90 trawls in the Baltic Sea fishery, cf. Commission delegated regulation (EU) 2018/47.

I can inform you that the Danish BALTFISH Presidency shortly will present a draft for a joint recommendation for the use of an additional alternative gear for the Baltic Sea cod fishery.


Best regards,
Ole Toft
Director for Fisheries