

Director General João Aguiar Machado  
D.G. for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

By e mail

Ref: BSAC/2017\_2018/18

Copenhagen 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**The BSAC proposes an amendment to the Commission Delegated Regulation 2018/47 on the technical specifications of T90**

Dear Director-General,

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Commission adopted the above Delegated Regulation to make possible the use of alternative T90 trawls in the Baltic cod fishery.

At the BSAC Executive Committee meeting 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Copenhagen, it was brought up by a Polish fisheries member who pointed out that the alternative model in the Delegated Regulation is not applicable in practice.

In order to provide a workable solution for the fishermen, he proposed additional wording so as to make it possible to apply alternative specifications for the T90 trawl in practice.

The ExCom unanimously agreed to ask the ExCom member to prepare a written text of the proposed amendment.

In Article 4 of the Commission Regulation: Alternative specifications for T90 trawl codend, Point 1 is not compatible with the specifications laid down in point 2 of Article 4. In order to rectify this, the BSAC proposes an amendment to the text by adding the following point (d):

**(d) at the point of attachment of the codend or extension piece to the tapered part of the trawl the number of meshes in circumference of the codend or extension piece must be at least 50% of the last row of meshes of tapered part of the trawl, by the way of derogation from point (d) item 3 of Appendix 2 to that Annex.**

The BSAC was not consulted by BALTFISH on the specifications of the proposed gear, so we were unable to put forward these amendments at the time.

The constant call from the BSAC has been to get away from detailed technical measures and to give fishermen more flexibility. The Delegated Regulation is a short-term solution, and other initiatives will be put forward. We look forward to maintaining a proactive approach with regard to selectivity.

Please find attached to this letter the technical note provided by the Polish fisheries member of the Executive Committee. ./.

Kind regards,



Reine Johansson  
Chair BSAC Executive Committee



Andrzej Bialas  
Vice 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