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Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Ref: BSAC/2021-2022/12

Dear Noémi and dear Stephen,

**Ref: Collection of information to support study on regionalisation and the Common Fisheries Policy – BSAC Management Team reply**

Thank you for inviting the BSAC to take part in your study.

We informed all BSAC members about your online survey and we sent the link to them. As an extra service we got the questionnaire translated into Polish. We have sent several reminders to members to take part.

Please find attached the answers completed by the BSAC Management Team. The MT consists of the General Assembly Honorary Chair, Executive Committee Chair, the three Working Group Chairs and the Secretariat. The answers were drafted by the Secretariat, reviewed and discussed by the Management Team, and then sent to the BSAC Executive Committee for final signing off. ./.

It was also agreed that we add the following comments.

Regionalisation is very relevant and topical for the work for the BSAC.

In 2020, an external evaluation of the BSAC was carried out. The final report was adopted in 2021. The main aim of the evaluation was to look at the performance of the BSAC, to identify strengths and good practices and to make recommendation. Clear reference was made to regionalisation in the questions and in feedback from members.

The evaluation team writes that there is potential for elevating the impact of the BSAC by finding common ground, being proactive and aligning with regional policy makers through BALTFISH. It goes on to add that aligning to some degree with BALTFISH and national concerns would further promote the influence of the BSAC. We encourage you and your team to read the 16 page evaluation, because of its reference to regionalisation. <sup>1</sup>

The BSAC has also been carrying work on developing a White Paper to provide input to the Commission on the functioning of the CFP. Several Focus Group meetings have been held and the White Paper will be produced later this year. One meeting, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, dealt specifically with decision making and regionalisation. There was agreement that regionalisation in the Baltic region has so far not given the expected effects, in particular with regard to the revision of the technical rules for the Baltic fisheries. It agreed on a more adaptive fisheries management, with a faster decision-making process, and with more management decisions being taken at regional level, even under the present legislative framework, as well as stronger cooperation of the BSAC with the regional bodies BALTFISH or HELCOM. At the same time, aware of the limitations of the current legal and institutional structure, it called for a change to the Lisbon Treaty to bring about true regionalisation. Again, we encourage you to read the BSAC meeting report from that third session. <sup>2</sup>

Also attached is a table listing the number fisheries interests and number of OIGs from 2008. The BSAC started in 2006, but info. is not available for 2006 and 2007 – probably the same as in 2008. ./.

Finally, the BSAC collaborates with BALTFISH. On specific stock issues it collaborates when relevant with the PELAC, and with all ACs on more generic, broader issues.

Kind regards,



Sally Clink / BSAC Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC/About-the-BSAC/Evaluation-of-the-BSAC-FINAL-15th-January-2021.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Future-Common-Fisheries-Policy-Session-3/BSACCFPSession309022021final-REPORTfinal.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>