

Anders Mikkelsen
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark
Slotsholmsgade 12
DK 1216 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Ref: BSAC/2017-2018/3

Copenhagen 4th July 2017

Dear Anders Mikkelsen,

At the recent BSAC Executive Committee meeting on 29th June 2017, members discussed transparency of BALTFISH activities. The German BALTFISH Presidency had raised the subject at its BALTFISH Forum meeting on 26th April 2017 in response to requests from stakeholders to increase the transparency of BALTFISH, among others to create a BALTFISH page on the European Commission's website. Since for technical reasons, the Commission is not able to host BALTFISH on its website, the BSAC was asked whether it would be possible to create such a page on the BSAC website.

The BSAC ExCom discussed, but did not reach consensus on proposing the BSAC website as a platform for BALTFISH meetings and activities. We appreciate that there needs to be a line between the BSAC as a stakeholder body and the administrations in BALTFISH.

Instead, we encourage the Danish Presidency to consider whether there should be a BALTFISH page on the ministry website and to decide what resources to allocate to that and how to coordinate it with subsequent BALTFISH presidencies.

BSAC ExCom members all agree that we can all benefit from extended cooperation with BALTFISH. We have appreciated the open meetings that have taken place under the Forum, as well as the possibility to hold back-to-meetings to prepare for them. There have been no complaints about the lack of transparency in providing meeting documents before and after, and the BSAC Secretariat has provided reports of the Forum meetings to stakeholders and administrations.

Good luck with the Presidency of BALTFISH. We look forward to meeting you at the end of August for the first Forum meeting.

Kind regards,



Reine J. Johansson
Chairman of the BSAC

Copy to Walter Dübner, Germany, outgoing BALTFISH Presidency