



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Brussels,  
D3/ADV ARES (2018)

Baltic Sea AC  
Mr Reine J. Johansson  
(Chairperson)  
Mr Andrzej Bialas (Vice chair)  
Axeltorv 3, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
DK-1609 Copenhagen V

**Subject: The BSAC proposal for an amendment to the Commission Delegated Regulation 2018/47 on the technical specifications of T90**

*Your ref.: Your letter of 8 March 2018*

Dear Mr Johanson, dear Mr Bialas,

Thank you for your letter on the alternative gear specification of the T90 recently adopted through Commission Delegated Act<sup>1</sup>. We are very disappointed to learn that, according to the BSAC, this gear cannot be used in practice.

As the basis for the above-mentioned delegated act was a joint recommendation from the Member States concerned, submitted to the Commission in line with the regionalization procedure under the Baltic Multi-annual plan, we will transmit your letter to the BALTFISH and ask them to discuss the issue during their next meeting in April 2018. It is for the BALTFISH to assess the substance of your letter and decide whether they should submit a joint recommendation to the Commission to modify the relevant delegated act.

However, I would like to take the opportunity to express my surprise over this development at this stage, given that the BSAC was involved in the whole process of shaping of the joint recommendation from the very beginning. My services attended the seminar that you organized in March 2017 on the specifications of the alternative gear T 90, during which your members stressed the positive results obtained from the gear trials. In addition, being aware of the importance of solid input from stakeholders for the development of more selective gears in the Baltic Sea, the BALTFISH High Level Group had an exchange of views with the BSAC during a BALTFISH Forum meeting held in

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/47 of 30 October 2017 authorising the use of alternative T90 trawls in Baltic Sea fisheries, by way of derogation from Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005; OJ L 7, 12.1.2018, p. 21–22

April 2017. STECF also concluded in July 2017<sup>2</sup> that the gear specifications indicated in the Joint Recommendation would reduce unwanted catches of cod below the minimum size. Therefore, it is unfortunate that during the extensive consultation process that lasted for more than a year the BSAC did not raise any concerns on the proposed specifications of the alternative gear and we only receive this input after the adoption of the delegated act.

I look forward to our continued cooperation and invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273) should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

c.c.: Ms. Veits, Roller, Kirchner, Georgitsi, Colson, de Diego de la Vega

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<sup>2</sup> Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – 55th Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-17-02); Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg; EUR 28359 EN; doi:10.2760/53335; p 21