

Director General João Aguiar Machado
D.G. for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium
Ref: BSAC/2018_2019/5

Copenhagen 15th May 2018

Dear João Aguiar Machado,

Input from BSAC regarding the road map for eel evaluation

The Commission has launched a consultation to evaluate the Eel management regulation 1100/2007 of 18th September 2007.¹ This is a very important initiative.

The BSAC Executive Committee discussed this at its recent meeting on Tuesday 8th May 2018. It also addressed a draft joint declaration on the protection and rebuilding of the eel stock, presented to the meeting by one Executive Committee member (the Association of Fisheries Protection).

It was agreed by the Executive Committee to write to you and to warmly welcome the Evaluation Roadmap. It fully endorses the need for this evaluation, the focus areas highlighted, as well as the explanation of the process that will now take place.

We also welcome the opportunity to return to the subject once the consultation period begins in October 2018 and we aim to provide substantial input and views on the changes that are needed to the management of eel in the EU.


The BSAC wants to underline a few points for the Roadmap and which reflect some of the views that have already come out of the work on eel in the BSAC:

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-1986447_en

- Eel management must be carried out at solid, pan European level. There is only one eel stock and its alarming status must be addressed equally throughout the EU.
- The BSAC fully supports a detailed analysis of all the national management plans and measures, especially given the importance of shared responsibility by all Member States for the eel.
- It is important that this process - both regarding the evaluation and subsequent considerations to improve the management of eel - is done thoroughly and well. The BSAC hopes this is the priority, rather than adhering to a fixed timeline. For that reason, we fully support that the evaluation period takes the time it takes, in order to reach a satisfactory end result.

The BSAC will deal with this at a future meeting of the BSAC working group on ecosystem based management. Two member organisations (the Association of Fisheries Protection and the Fisheries Secretariat) have submitted documents on the subject. As mentioned earlier, one of them was recently discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on 8th May 2018. They will be used as working documents at the meeting. We are pleased to attach them to this letter. ./.

Kind regards,



Steve Karnicki
BSAC Acting chair



Andrzej Bialas
BSAC Vice chair