



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

BALTIC SEA, NORTH SEA AND LANDLOCKED MEMBER STATES

Brussels, 11.08.2009 D 9383  
D(2009)

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council  
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37,  
1553 Copenhagen  
Denmark

**Subject: Project proposal on selectivity in the Baltic cod fishery**

Dear Mr. Johansson,

Thank you very much for your letter of 8 July 2009, addressed to Mr Fotiadis, where you pointed out the intention of the BS RAC to develop a project on selectivity for the Baltic cod fishery. The Commission encourages developing projects to improve selectivity to reduce discards and by-catches and therefore highly welcomes your initiative. The reduction and further eradication of discards is one of our priorities as expressed in the Communication on the Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2010.

In the likely event the Lisbon Treaty enters into force, the technical measures regulation for the Baltic will need to be amended to include provisions on technical measures currently laid down in the Baltic TAC and quota regulation. Let me inform you that the Commission has also requested ICES to provide advice on "*Ways to improve selectivity in Baltic cod fisheries for which cod is recognised as target species*", due in September.

The abovementioned amendment will not be the right occasion to include new measures to reduce discards derived from the project proposal for a simple question of timing. Over and beyond the amendment, the Commission would certainly intend to study possible options to improve selectivity and the exploitation pattern to reduce discards. It is in this context where we are interested to know more about your proposal.

Therefore, I would like to invite you to a meeting in Brussels on the 25 September at 15.00h to further discuss the project.

Yours sincerely,

Ernesto PENAS LADO  
Director