



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

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 01.03.2010 D 02510  
MARE D(2010)

Mr Reine J. Johansson  
Chairman of the Baltic Sea Regional  
Advisory Council  
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
1553 Copenhagen V  
Denmark

**Subject: Specifications of BACOMA and T90 fishing gear**

Dear Mr Johansson

Thank you for your letter of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009 regarding the BSRAC letter concerning Specifications of BACOMA and T90 fishing gear.

We welcome your comments and suggestion to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005 to improve the implementation of the changes in mesh sizes of the BACOMA window and the T90 fishing gear in the Baltic Sea.

As you rightly pointed out the decision to increase the mesh size of the BACOMA window and the T90 fishing gear in the Baltic Sea was taken during the Fisheries Minister Council in October 2009. As such, only the Council and the Parliament have the mandate to delay the implementation of such a measure.

Regarding the specific amendments to Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005, I take this opportunity to inform you that an amendment of the appendix 1 and 2 of Annex II is currently being prepared by my services, to improve and simplify it.

Regarding the mounting of the BACOMA, my services are working on an additional ratio allowed for mounting the bacoma window as we agree that the increase in width of the window, due to an increase in mesh size, may cause unforeseen issues. However, please note that this new ratio will continue to be in number of meshes. The effect on the bacoma window selectivity of the BS RAC proposed changes, i.e. of the ratio in stretch meshes and a change in the definition of "knotless netting", will need to be evaluated before it can be translated in legislation.

On the same regulation, we take note of your comments on the provisions of appendix 2 point d.3 on the number of meshes of the codend or the extension piece must be 50% of the last row of meshes of the tapered part of the trawl. I draw your attention to the fact that point b of appendix 2, that was amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1226/2009 from 110 mm mesh size to 120 mm, includes both codend and extension piece. Furthermore, Art 6(b) and also point d.2 of Appendix 2 does not allow for the circumference of the codend being greater than the extension piece.

Finally, I agree with you that it is through dialogue with the industry, particularly when developing new technical measures, that mistakes can be avoided and improvements reached. This is precisely why I look forward to close co-operation in the upcoming year with the BSRAC, and the Baltic Member States, in the development and establishment of technical measures that would deliver a discard free Baltic Sea fisheries.

Yours faithfully,



Fokion FOTIADIS