

Evaluation of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council

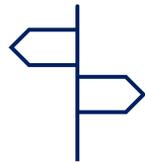
ExCom Meeting, January 29th 2021

Agenda

1. Presentation of the main findings and our reflections
2. Discussion of the results and way forward

Evaluation design and process

Kick-off



Input for the
evaluation design

Survey



Broad
assessment of
themes

Interviews



Deep dives into
the dynamics of
BSAC

Report



Analysis and
synthesis

Data collection

- 31 survey respondents (74 %)
- 15 interviews with BSAC members
- 5 interviews with external stakeholders



Differences in...

- Geography
- Objectives
- Scale
- Impact
- Organisational capacity
- Life-views and assessment of the condition in the Baltic Sea

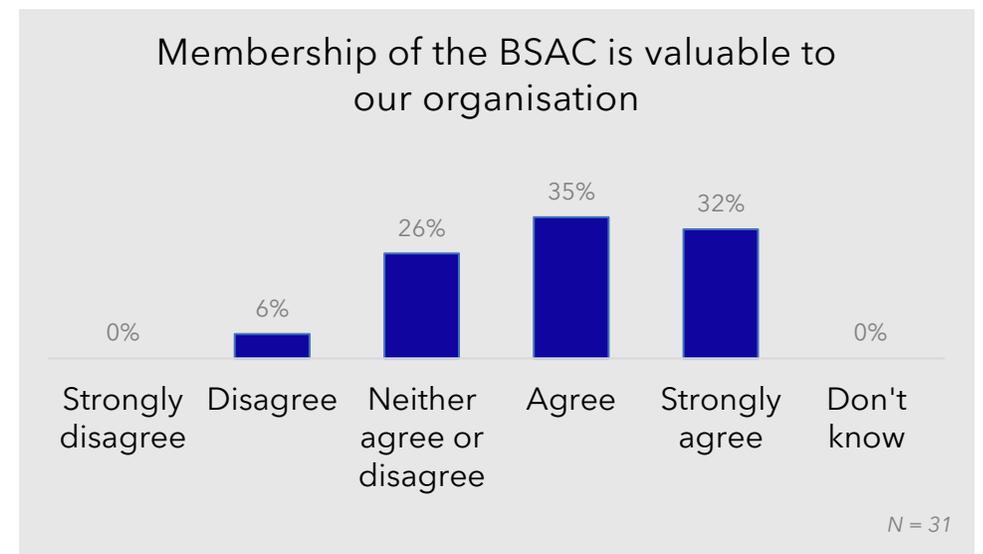
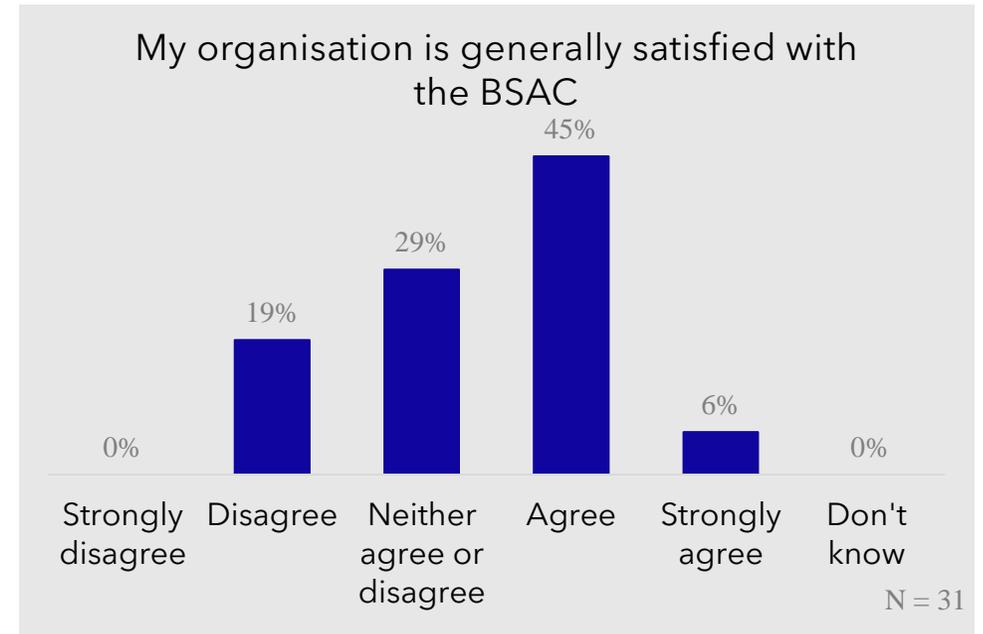


Overall performance

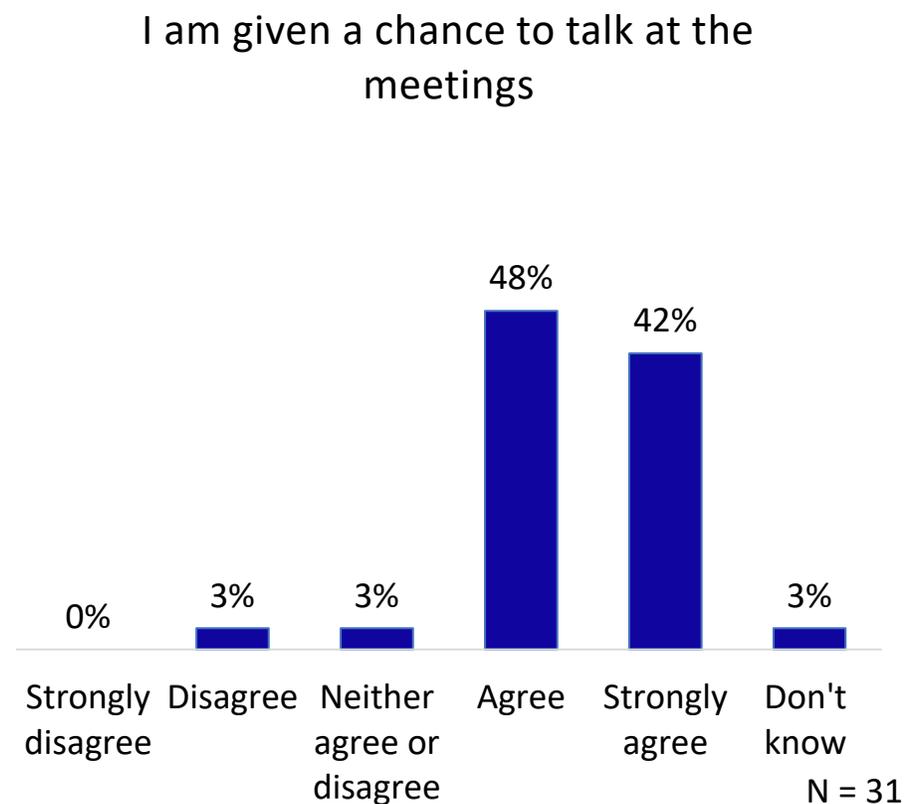
Overall, we find that the BSAC is well performing and fulfilling its role by providing the commission with relevant input from regional stakeholders in relation to the management of the Baltic Sea fisheries.

- Membership is valuable

However, we also find that the BSAC is very polarized. As a consequence meetings are far from constructive and there is reason to believe that the influence could be improved through seeking more common ground, compromises and consensus.



Chairing and running of the meetings

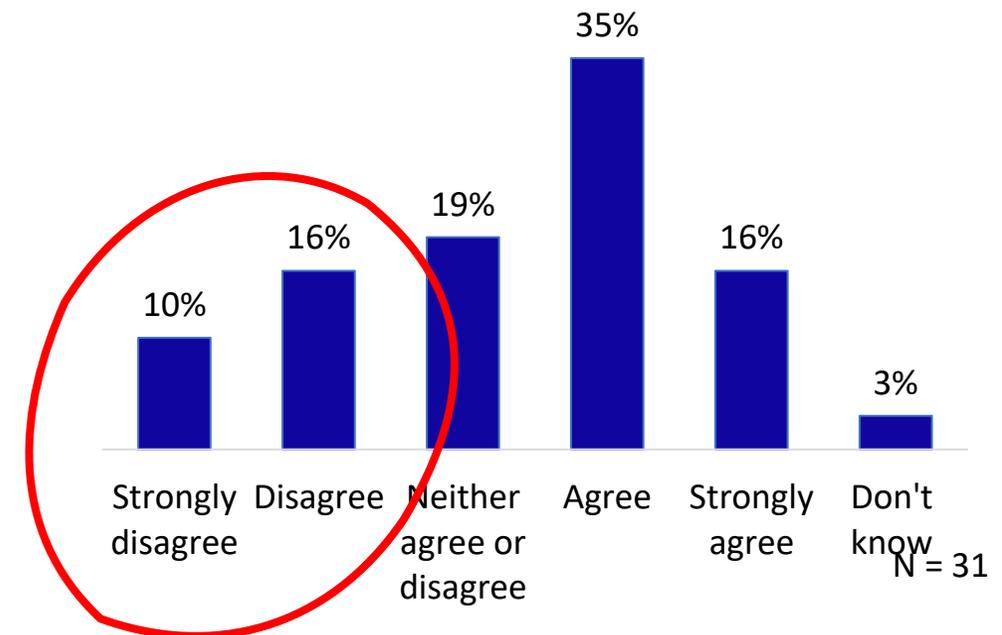


- Meetings are well chaired, and leadership have been improving in the period covered.
- However, meetings are marked by opposition and not always experienced as productive nor pleasant. Root cause is the composition of the BSAC but also the leadership style.
- Because of this, a few members are considering, or being questioned by their organization if it is worth the time and resources.

Chairing and running of the meetings

- There are incidents where the tone and language at meetings is inappropriate.
- Some members have experienced patronizing language, while others consider “rough” speech as a part of the game.
- Meetings is dominated by a few people (and countries)

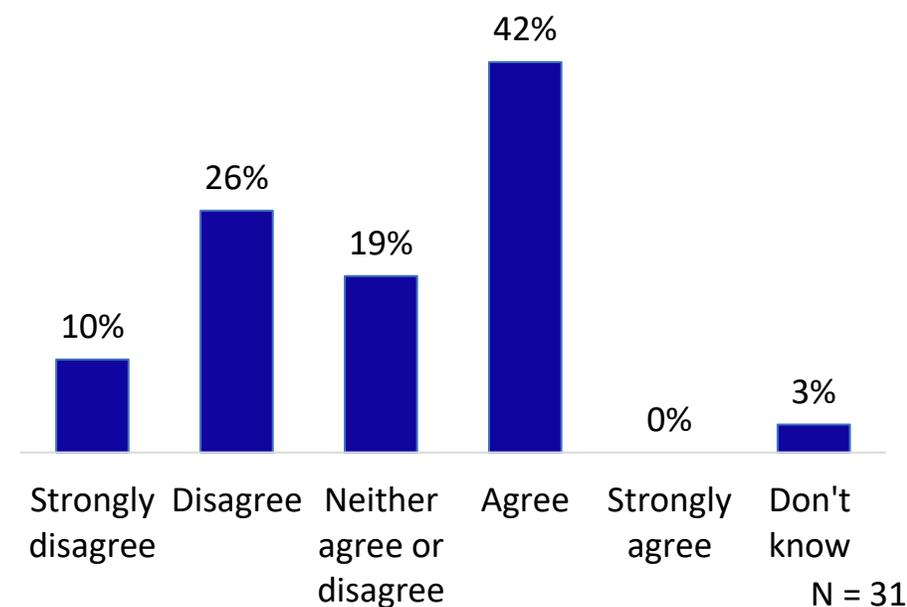
The tone, language and discussions are appropriate



Trust and cooperation

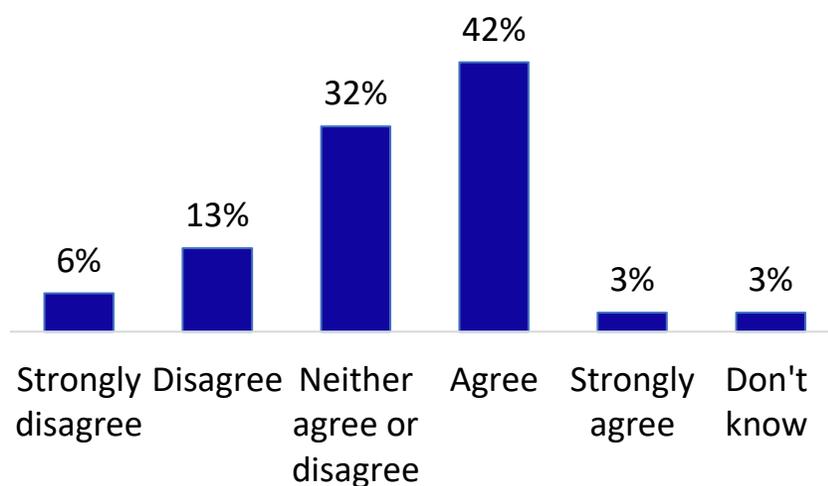
- Meetings and cooperation marked by opposition and positional games.
- Topics are conflictual and interests highly antagonistic.
- However, a broad call across stakeholders for more cooperation, common ground and to some degree also consensus seeking.

I am satisfied with the level of trust and cooperation between BSAC members



The advice and impact

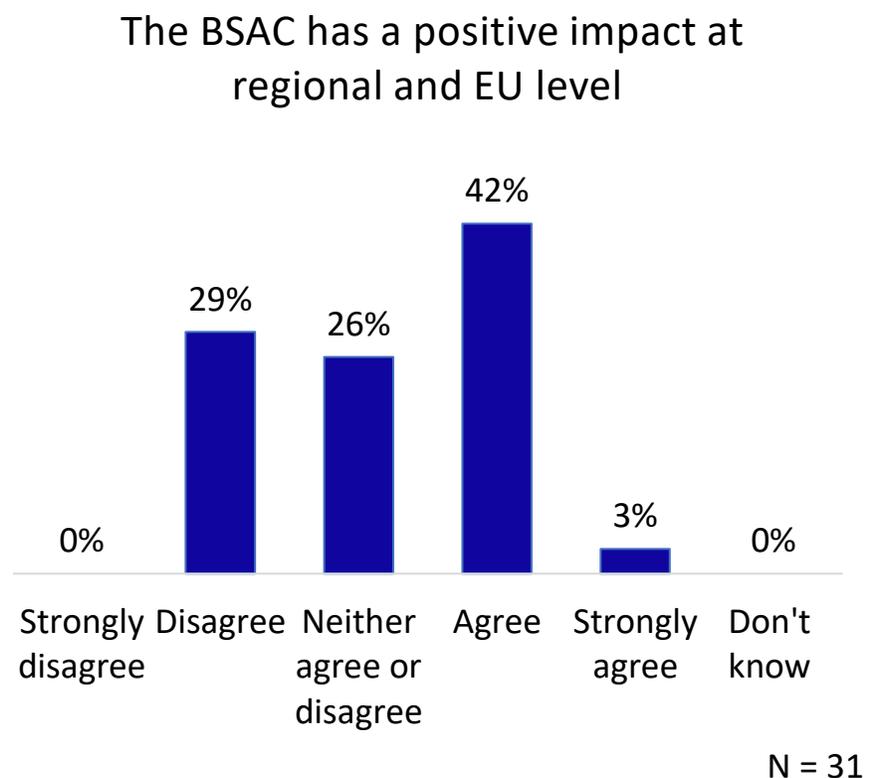
The BSAC's recommendations represent an added value for my organization



N = 31

- The advice and recommendations are formed in an inclusive manner
- The advice and recommendations are perceived by members as having little impact
- The advice and recommendations represent little added value for the members' organizations.

The advice and impact



- From an external point of view the BSAC considered as proactive and the commission value the advice (as a stakeholder mapping)
- However, it is argued that the majority/minority recommendations hinder real influence
- The current advice leaves the commission with full freedom to choose its line.
- Different ideas of what regionalization means and should be

Recommendations to improve performance

- Continue to support and facilitate participation from members with less organizational support and language challenges.
- Experiment with alternative formats for parts of the meetings to facilitate new relations, get more people involved and to identify common ground.
- Carefully think through your approach to TACs and quota recommendations also considering the actual effect of these in the Fisheries Council.
- Increase the effort to find common ground and to topics that unify members and strive to be more consensus oriented.
- Addressing the issues of tone and language.

Recommendations to increase impact

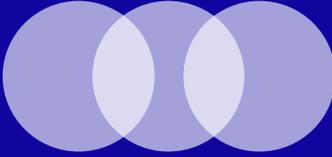
- Start a discussion on the purpose of BSAC in relation to the impact you want to have.
- Align further with national administrations and their priorities in order to increase relevance and impact.
- Explore learnings from initiatives with consensus approach
- Test consensus with selected topics.
- In the longer run, create a vision or an action plan that unifies fishing sector and other interest groups.

The way forward

How can you use this evaluation forwardly?

What can you change to improve the performance?



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