

**BSAC Pelagic Working Group**  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
**10.00 – 13.00**  
**DRAFT Agenda **REV****

**This will be a web-based Zoom meeting**

**1. Welcome by the Pelagic WG chair Mart Undrest**

**2. Formalities for the start of the meeting:**

Apologies and adoption of the agenda

**3. Stickleback**

The BSAC Ecosystem Based Management Working Group (21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020) recommended that further work on stickleback should be done in the Pelagic Working Group or in a dedicated Focus Group. The group should meet as soon as possible and discuss how to approach a stickleback fishery in a controlled and responsible manner and to develop a pilot fishery. This was confirmed by the Executive Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The aim of this meeting is to clarify outstanding issues, and for the BSAC to develop guidelines for a trial fishery of stickleback as a first step. Such guidelines can describe the background of the problem (including ecosystem considerations), and include the implications of this fishery in terms of by-catch, relevant changes needed in the technical measures, and criteria for data collection and handling of the catch. Article 25 of the Technical Measures Regulation<sup>1</sup> describes the legal measures for a derogation for fishing operations conducted for the purpose of scientific investigations.

**4. Technical measures**

The Technical Measures Regulation<sup>2</sup> also includes the requirement for the Commission to carry out an evaluation of the regulation by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. We will investigate the status on this and discuss possible BSAC input.

**5. AOB**

**Western Baltic herring - from the ExCom meeting 27.10.20**

**In connection with the Council decision for Western Baltic herring SDs 22-24**

**The ExCom** decided that the Pelagic Working Group will discuss how the BSAC could contribute to an improved assessment, rebuilding and better management of western spring spawning herring. The ExCom decided to give a mandate to the BSAC Secretariat to open up a dialogue with the Member States and Norway, so any remedial measures can be introduced without delay.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1241>

<sup>2</sup> See Article 31 of Regulation