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BSAC 2021-2022/31

Copenhagen Monday 20th December 2021

Dear Normunds,

REF: The Commission letter on eel and consultation
Updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan information to stakeholder organisations: BSAC-HELCOM-BALTFISH meeting Friday 4th February 2022
BSAC ExCom meeting Monday 17th January 2022

./, I am pleased to enclose a letter sent recently from the Commission to several ACs about eel. The Commission has decided to launch a wide-ranging consultation and is asking for concrete suggestions on measures that would facilitate implementation of the ICES advice on eel. This letter came close on the heels of a letter I sent to the Commission and Member States, with a statement from the BSAC on views and advice on other factors that hamper eel recovery and that require immediate and urgent attention and work. The Commission has just replied to the BSAC statement, and informed that it has also written to Member State Regional groups.¹ In the BSAC, we are thinking about how best to develop a response to the Commission's request, and we will begin this work in the new year. I find it very important from a Baltic perspective. We would like to discuss this with Member States so we can put our heads together and formulate a Baltic response. I would very much like to suggest a meeting with you in the new year to deal with this.

I would also like to refer to my letter to you of 29th November 2021 (BSAC 2021-2022/27) about our initiative to hold a joint HELCOM, BALTFISH and BSAC meeting to inform of and discuss those actions from the adopted HELCOM BSAP that are relevant to fisheries and fisheries management.²

¹ Relevant letters and BSAC statement are on the BSAC Website. <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-statement-on-eel>

² <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-invite-to-HELCOM-and-BALTFISH-about-the-updat>

The BSAC Secretariat has liaised with HELCOM. HELCOM has confirmed and agreed a date for this meeting on Friday 4th February 2022. It will be an online meeting. I hope this date is convenient for you and BALTFISH colleagues, and I look forward to your participation. The BSAC will arrange the meeting.

Finally, I would like to remind you of and invite you to our Executive Committee meeting on 17th January 2022, also online.³ I have put on the agenda a discussion on the working procedures with BALTFISH, including the role of the BSAC in the BALTFISH Forum meetings, towards formulating a proposal which could be presented to the BALTFISH High Level Group. I welcome you to this meeting so you can join in the discussions.

I send you warm greetings for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
Chair BSAC Executive Committee

Copy to BALTFISH Member States, DG Mare and HELCOM

³ <http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-meeting>