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Ref: BSAC/2023-2024/12

Copenhagen, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Subject: Baltic roundtable discussion before Fisheries Council of October**

Dear Commissioner Sinkevicius,

In December 2022, you invited the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) Executive Committee Chair and Executive Committee Vice-Chair to a roundtable ahead of the December AGRIFISH Council. The BSAC Members have expressed gratitude for this invitation and really appreciated the possibility to discuss with you the key topics related to the fishing opportunities for 2023.

However, the December Council is only relevant for 2 fish stocks in the Baltic Sea (Western Baltic Spring Spawning herring and eel) while decisions about all other fishing opportunities and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea are taken during the October Council.

Therefore, we find highly justified our kind request for the opportunity to be invited to another roundtable meeting this year, exclusively for the BSAC, to allow for a discussion on the fishing opportunities in the Baltic before the Council of the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The BSAC held its Working Groups and Executive Committee meetings in June and is now finalising its recommendations for the fisheries in 2024. These recommendations will be sent to the Commission in the coming days. Therefore, we stand ready to present them and bring our input to the table, together with other key concerns of the stakeholders related to the Baltic environment and fish stocks management.

This year again, the situation in the Baltic Sea remains difficult, as the sea basin continues to struggle with many challenges, including the environmental circumstances affecting the state of fish stocks.

We especially value your commitment to hold a follow up to the Our Baltic Conference in September this year.

The BSAC remains available to engage with you on that topic and work to improve the state of Our Baltic Sea.

Kind regards,



Jarek Zielinski  
Chair of the BSAC Executive Committee