

Mr Fabrizio DONATELLA
Director for Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions (MARE.C)
European Commission
Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium

By email to: Fabrizio.donatella@ec.europa.eu
CC: mare-ac@ec.europa.eu

Ref: BSAC/2022-2023/33

Copenhagen, 31st January 2023

Subject: Following-up on the latest information on western Baltic herring and eel stocks

Dear Fabrizio Donatella,

On behalf of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC), I wish to thank you for your letter of 21st of December 2022, updating us on the latest developments in the Council and in the fisheries consultations with third Parties.

We welcome the Commission's pro-active position to find a way forward and make progress on the management of western Baltic herring.

Regarding the Baltic fisheries of this stock, the BSAC recommended to use the EU MultiAnnual Plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea to act as a rebuilding plan and to request ICES to put the EU MAP advice as its headline advice for 2024. Is this request still considered?

Finally, on a longer-term perspective, we were wondering if, during these consultations the Commission had also discussed with the interested Parties the development of a long-term rebuilding plan. ICES informed the BSAC that WKREBUILD2 was scheduled, in March 2023, at the same time as the assessment working group for this stock. Let us remark that this is unfortunate and means that more time will be needed to incorporate the outcome of the workshop WKREBUILD2 into the advice.

Regarding eel, the BSAC will further engage with the Member States in the framework of BALTFISH to promote coordination around the implementation of measures and, in particular, on the flexible closed period.

The BSAC will continue to recall its recommendation of May 2022 and its call for action on the implementation of national measures, with respect to anthropogenic, non-fisheries-related sources of mortality, a catch documentation system, measures against IUU fishing and an EU ban on exports outside the EU.

Thanks again for your time and considerations.

Kind regards,



Jarek Zielinski
BSAC Executive Committee Chair