



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions
The Director

Brussels,
MARE.C.1/AK/ms

Dear Mr Zieliński,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2023 in reply to my letter of 21 December 2022 (Ares(2022)8891898).

The decision of the Council on the management of Western Baltic spring spawning herring in the Baltic was based on the Baltic MAP. Pursuant to Article 5(2) in conjunction with Article 4(4) of the Baltic MAP, the Council kept closed the directed fishery and set a TAC for unavoidable by-catches.

As you know ICES is an independent international organization and it can only base its advice on a management plan on condition that all parties concerned agree. This is not the case for this stock as there is one party that does not agree, in this case Norway. Therefore, ICES had to base its advice on the ICES advice framework.

The Commission is currently focusing on incentivizing spatial-temporal measures aimed at alleviating the fishing pressure on the stock given its intermixing with North Sea autumn spawning herring. There are no discussions today on a rebuilding plan with UK and Norway for this stock since these countries do not consider themselves responsible for the management of the stock. The development of a rebuilding plan should be handled as a domestic management issue.

Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Julia.RUBECK@ec.europa.eu), who will forward it to relevant colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

Fabrizio DONATELLA

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