

Recommendations

on the management of the Baltic salmon fishery

- September 2006 -

This paper contains BS RAC recommendations on the management of salmon in the Baltic. The paper is based on the discussions and outcome of the Executive Committee meeting 28 August 2006 in Stockholm.

Management plan on Baltic Salmon

The BS RAC recommends that a management plan on the Baltic salmon be developed as soon as possible. The RAC is prepared to play an active role in this work and has in fact already initiated the discussions on this at WG level and in the Executive Committee. The main goals should be to protect the wild Baltic salmon stocks, but also to maintain as high a level of fishing as possible. The BS RAC recommends that the work and experience from the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) be taken into account when preparing the new management plan.

TAC for salmon in IIIbcd (EC waters) excluding Subdivision 32

The BS RAC has no common position on the TAC for salmon in 2007.

The fishery sector recommends a roll over of the TAC while waiting for the introduction of a new management plan. This corresponds to a TAC of 460,000 specimens. The TAC should reflect the strength of the stock and not the utilisation of the TAC, as the latter is very much influenced by other Community regulations such as the driftnet ban.

Representatives from the “other interest group” recommend a reduction of the TAC in 2007 due to the fact that, although the stocks from the large salmon rivers in the north have recovered well, several wild salmon stocks from smaller rivers, primarily in the southern Baltic, are still weak and are far from reaching the 50% production potential as defined in the Salmon Action Plan developed by IBSFC. Moreover, a high TAC should not be in place when there is uncertainty about the catch level in some Baltic states and when there is no decision on long-term conservation measures.

TAC for salmon in Subdivision 32

The BS RAC has not had a discussion on the TAC for salmon in Subdivision 32.