

Director-General Ms Charlina Vitcheva,
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Sent by e mail to: Charlina.VITCHEVA@ec.europa.eu; mare-ac@ec.europa.eu
cc: BALTFISH Member States, ICES

Ref: BSAC/2023-2024/36

Copenhagen, Wednesday 6th December 2023

Subject: Invitation to participate in a BSAC executive meeting to discuss ongoing and upcoming ICES requests

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Thank you for your letter of 10th November 2023¹, sent in response to the BSAC's letter on the Commission proposal for setting fishing opportunities for the Baltic in 2024, and requests for ICES advice².

The BSAC warmly welcomes your offer that your services will participate in the upcoming BSAC Executive Committee meetings to discuss ongoing and future ICES requests.

ICES is an independent organisation, but hopefully you will agree that the exact formulation of such requests greatly influences the output since ICES advice is constrained by the framework of such request, as it is bound to answer the questions posed by requesters.

The BSAC would especially use such an opportunity to seek clarity on the ongoing requests about Baltic herring stocks. We therefore invite your services to participate in the BSAC Executive Committee meeting on 24th January 2024 in Warsaw.

The BSAC acknowledges that the Commission must implement the Baltic MAP as laid down by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. However, the BSAC insists that a MAP cannot be implemented in isolation but must be held up against the CFP

¹ <https://www.bsac.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Reply-to-BSAC-on-Baltic-FO-2024-and-ICES-advice.pdf>

² <https://www.bsac.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BSAC-letter-Baltfish-forum-follow-up23-25-25.pdf>

Regulation which, in several places, stipulates the need to take account of the socio-economic consequences of measures, including those included in a MAP³.

In this context, an extra layer of transparency towards stakeholders could be provided by an impact assessment of the socio-economic consequences.

The Council would certainly also benefit from such impact assessment when fixing fishing opportunities within the permitted ranges. Socio-economic impact assessment would also help Member States in allocating public funding to assist the implementation of the CFP.

By its very nature, such public funding, be it Union or national funding, is intrinsically linked to the socio-economic impact of the political decisions taken under the CFP.

Kind regards,



Lise Laustsen
BSAC Pelagic Working Group Chair



Jarek Zieliński
BSAC Executive Committee Chair

³ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013R1380>

Article 2, Objectives, paragraph 5(f): “[The CFP shall, in particular:] contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities, bearing in mind coastal fisheries and socio-economic aspects;”

Article 9, Principles and objectives of multiannual plans, paragraph 4. “Before measures are included in the multiannual plans, account shall be taken of their likely economic and social impact.”