

To: Baltic Sea Member States representatives in BSAC

Copenhagen, 3rd April 2024,

Subject: Criteria used to define small-scale fishing vessels

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) is in the process of updating its Rules of Procedure in order to align with the current legislation, notably with requirements in Delegated Regulation 2022/204. BSAC expects to adopt its updated Rules of Procedure during an extraordinary General Assembly in April this year.

However, internally BSAC is considering how to correctly apply Article 4(7) of Regulation 2022/204, stating that: *“The number of representatives of a small-scale fleet should reflect the share of small-scale fleets within the fishing sector of the Member States concerned.”*

BSAC asked the European Commission for clarification. In its answer of 15 December 2023, it was stated that: *“it is the discretion of the respective Advisory Council to define and justify its own indicators to attribute the “share” of small-scale fleets in the Member States for the way it should be reflected into the composition of the General Assembly and Executive Committee members”*. The Commission also confirmed that the CFP does not contain a general definition of a small-scale fishing vessel, but that the EMFAF does have an ad-hoc definition for funding purposes only¹.

In view of this answer BSAC has set up a focus group to examine in-depth the question of a definition and indications and to advance this examination, BSAC kindly requests your Member State to provide us with the following information:

- 1) which criteria are, nationally, used for attributing vessels to the small-scale fleet segment and what percentage that would represent of your entire fishing fleet?**
- 2) if you were to use the EMFAF definition, how would that look in relation to your fishing fleet?**

We look forward to reading your answer and remain available to provide any additional explanations on the BSAC procedures regarding this file.

Yours sincerely,



Ingemar Berglund
BSAC General Assembly Chair

¹ The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EU) 2021/1139 defines the concept of “small-scale coastal fishing” as fishing activities carried out by: (a) marine and inland fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as defined in point (1) of Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006; (b) fishers on foot, including shellfish gatherers.