

Rules of Procedure for the Baltic Sea Advisory Council¹

General Section

1. The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) fulfils the role and functioning of an Advisory Council, as described in the current EU-legislation².
2. The BSAC covers the following ICES areas: IIIb, IIIc and III d (the Baltic Sea).
3. The BSAC prepares and provides advice in the form of recommendations and suggestions on the management of fisheries and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries of the Baltic Sea on behalf of the fisheries sector and other interest groups in order to achieve a successful implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The BSAC advice is addressed to the European Commission and Member States.

It is also shared with the Fisheries Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and other bodies decided by the BSAC.

4. The activities of the BSAC are open and transparent. The BSAC disseminates full and timely reports on all its activities to its members and to others. Meeting reports and advice are placed on the BSAC's website as soon as possible.
5. In carrying out its tasks, the BSAC adopts working methods ensuring that its recommendations and suggestions:
 - a) comply with the rules and objective of the Common Fisheries Policy (Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013),
 - b) are developed along strict principles of transparency, balanced representation, and respect of all opinions expressed,
 - c) are adopted, where possible, by consensus, by its Executive Committee. If no consensus can be reached, dissenting opinions expressed by members in the Executive Committee shall be recorded in the recommendations adopted by a simple majority of the members present and voting; and
 - d) allow for efficient and full participation of all members through the use of modern IT communication means and the provision of interpretation and translation services.

¹ Adopted by the BSAC General Assembly on 17th April 2024.

² Basic Regulation (Regulation 1380/2013): http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC/About-the-BSAC/BR1380_2013UK.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

Commission Delegated Regulation 2015/242: http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC/About-the-BSAC/DelAct2015_242.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB, later amended by Commission Delegated Regulation 2017/1575

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/204 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/204

6. The BSAC is an equal opportunities organisation and does not discriminate on the grounds of race, gender or disability.
7. The BSAC attaches importance to compliance with its Code of Conduct for members and observers as set out in Annex 2 to these rules of procedure.
8. The BSAC maintains a personal data policy which is available on the website.
9. The BSAC operates as a legal entity, in a form acceptable to the European Commission and Member States.

Organisation and Structure

These Rules of Procedures specify below rules for the BSAC, including terms of references for the Management Team and other groups set up by the BSAC to prepare topics for adoption by the Executive Committee and, where necessary, the General Assembly.

10. The BSAC consists of its members, a General Assembly and an Executive Committee. They are assisted by a Secretariat including a rapporteur, a Management Team, and where relevant, by other subordinate groups, for instance a Working Group.
11. On the General Assembly and the Executive Committee 60% of the seats are allotted to representatives of the fisheries sector organisations and 40% to representatives of the other interest groups affected by the Common Fisheries Policy. Seats in the Executive Committee are left vacant pending appointments by the General Assembly in case the 30 seats cannot be filled respecting the 60/40 principle.

This principle also applies, where possible, to working groups or other ad hoc groups set up by the BSAC.

The Office Bearers of the BSAC

12. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Assembly are designated by consensus by the General Assembly for a term of three years and play an impartial role. The Chair of the General Assembly may be designated for up to 3 terms of 3 years. The Chair may originate from outside the membership of the Advisory Council. The General Assembly may designate more than one Vice-Chair. In case the Chair is designated amongst representatives of member organisations, at least one of the Vice-Chairs shall be designated amongst the members of the category of sector organisations and other interest groups, other than the one to which the Chair belongs.
13. The Chair of the Executive Committee is appointed by consensus for a term of three years by members of the General Assembly and plays an impartial role. The Chair of the Executive Committee may be appointed for up to 3 terms of 3 years. The Chair may originate from outside the membership of the Advisory Council. If the Chair is elected from the members of the Executive Committee, a substitute member is nominated in

writing by the organisation which the Chair formerly represented. The Chair does not have a vote.

Together with the Executive Secretary, the Chair leads the work of the Executive Committee and prepares for its meetings. The Chair ensures that the members of the Executive Committee, through the Secretariat, continuously receive the information they need to be able to follow the work of the BSAC, as well as its financial situation. The Chair, assisted by the Management Team, deals with recruitment or dismissal of Secretariat staff, salaries and terms of employment and is responsible for the proper management of the BSAC assets and ensures that the accounting is done in accordance with appropriate rules and regulations.

14. The Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee is appointed by members of the Executive Committee for a term of three years from another member category than the one of the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Vice-Chair is a member of the Executive Committee and has a vote.
15. The Executive Secretary is appointed by the Executive Committee to lead the Secretariat, with the annual approval of the Executive Committee, in the first instance for three years, and does not have a vote.

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Management Team, the Executive Secretary carries out the work necessary to ensure the efficient functioning of the BSAC.

16. The Chair of working groups are appointed by the Executive Committee for a three-year period in line with paragraph 37.
17. The Chair of the management team is the Chair of the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly

18. Membership of the General Assembly is open to representatives from the fisheries sector organisations and other interest groups, from the EU Baltic Sea Member States, and who support the objectives of the BSAC.
19. European and national organisations, as well as regional and local organisations, representing the fisheries sector organisations and other interest groups can propose members to the BSAC. Applications for membership must be made in writing to the Secretariat of the BSAC. Final decision on membership is decided by the EU Baltic Sea Member States.
20. If an organisation ends its membership of the General Assembly or Executive Committee or does not pay its membership fee by the time the application for grant funding has been sent to the Commission, its nominated representative on the General Assembly and/or Executive Committee is given observer status.
21. The General Assembly shall:

- a) adopt the rules of procedures of BSAC,
 - b) meet at least once a year to approve the annual report, the annual strategic plan and annual budget,
 - c) decide on the classification of its members under the categories 'sector organisations' or 'other interest groups' using the criteria laid down in Annex 1 to these rules of procedure and based on objective and verifiable information, such as the provisions of the statutes, the list of members and the nature of the activities of the organisation concerned,
 - d) ensure equitable membership fees, which enable balanced and wide representation of all stakeholders taking into account their financial capacity,
 - e) ensure a balanced and wide representation of all stakeholders with emphasis on other interest groups and, where appropriate, small-scale fleets. The number of representatives of small-scale fleets should reflect the share of small-scale fleets within the fishing sector of the Member State concerned.
22. The General Assembly appoints the Executive Committee members put forward by the fisheries sector organizations and other interest groups for their respective parts of the Committee's 30 seats.
- The General Assembly appoints every 3 years the Executive Committee anew when it chooses a new Chair of the Executive Committee.
- The Secretariat must be informed of any changes to the person designated as member by their organisations.
23. Members of the General Assembly may comment on the activities of the Executive Committee and raise issues of relevance to the BSAC.
24. An annual General Assembly is organised by the Executive Committee and the Secretariat on behalf of the BSAC. The General Assembly is open to the public.
- Written notification is sent to all members and observers no later than five weeks before the annual General Assembly meeting or an Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting with an invitation to propose items to the agenda. No later than three weeks before the General Assembly meeting, an agenda, listing the business to be considered at the meeting, and relevant background documents are sent to all members and observers. If interpreting is to be provided, a request from members must be given to the Executive Secretary by a deadline set by the Secretariat. Web conference link will be provided where possible.
25. At the opening of the meeting, the Chair proceeds to the adoption of the agenda. Before doing so, the Chair verifies if some members wish to include points under "any other business"; such points are for information or discussion only. This rule is set out in the draft agenda.
26. Decisions by the General Assembly are taken by consensus, or if this cannot be achieved, by a simple majority vote. Written mandates can be given to members taking part and submitted to the Secretariat. The presence, including written mandates, of a

majority of the members is required for any decision to be taken. Dissenting opinions will be noted in the minutes on request.

The Executive Committee

27. The Executive Committee members must behave in the best interests of the BSAC to further the aims and objectives in this document and are accountable to the General Assembly.
28. The Executive Committee meets as appropriate. The meetings are open to the public unless, in exceptional cases, decided otherwise by a majority of the Executive Committee.
29. The Executive Committee is responsible for, amongst other things:
 - a) for steering and managing the tasks of the BSAC in accordance with Article 44(2) of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013,
 - b) preparing the annual report, the annual strategic plan and the annual budget,
 - c) adopt recommendations and suggestions as referred to in Article 44(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013,
 - d) ensuring a balanced and wide representation of all stakeholders with emphasis on other interest groups and, where appropriate, small-scale fleets and they should reflect the share of small-scale fleets within the fishing sector of the Member State concerned, and
 - e) general policy, in particular
 - the annual financial statement and report
 - the auditor's report
 - the draft estimated expenditure for next year
 - the draft work programme for next year
 - the organisation and management of the Secretariat
30. The Executive Committee adopts, where possible, recommendations by consensus. Executive Committee members can give written mandates to another BSAC member to represent them at specified meetings which must be submitted to the Secretariat. The presence, including written mandates, of a majority of the members is required for any decision to be taken.
31. If consensus cannot be reached, the recommendations are adopted by a simple majority of the members present and voting; dissenting opinions expressed by members in the Executive Committee are recorded in the recommendations.
32. If decisions cannot be taken at Executive Committee meetings, they can be taken by email. Members of the Executive Committee will be informed by email and given a

minimum of 5 working days and a maximum of 20 working days to provide input on or give approval to the draft advice.

33. If rapid consultation of the BSAC is required by the European Commission, EU Baltic Member States, or another body of similar standing, the Chair and Vice-Chair will decide whether to adopt a fast-track process. If so, the Chair and Vice-Chair will carry this out in co-ordination with the Secretariat.
34. While allowing for exceptional circumstances, failure to comment by deadlines set under paragraph 32 and 33, will be regarded as non-opposition. If at least 20% of the Executive Committee members oppose in writing the use of a written procedure under paragraphs 32 and 33, the decision must be taken at an ad hoc Executive Meeting.
35. In exceptional cases, the Executive Committee can decide to submit an issue for decision by written procedure to the General Assembly. The Executive Committee must state the exceptional reasons for the written procedure and the General Assembly must decide by simple majority within a deadline of at least 20 working days from the day of the submission by the Executive Committee.
36. While allowing for exceptional circumstances, failure to comment by deadlines set under paragraph 35, will be regarded as non-opposition. If at least 20% of the BSAC members oppose in writing the use of a written procedure under paragraph 35, the decision must be taken at a meeting of the General Assembly.
37. The Executive Committee can establish Working Groups or Focus Groups to assist the Executive Committee in its task of preparing advice. They must be appointed for a specific purpose. A Working Group can be permanent or of a limited duration whereas a Focus Group is temporary. The Chair of each Working Group is appointed by the Executive Committee for a renewable term of 3 years, but not for more than 3 terms.
38. The Executive Committee, in agreement with the EU Baltic Member States, can propose to the General Assembly to terminate the membership of any person or organisation which is no longer affected by the Common Fisheries Policy in the Baltic Sea or does not support the objectives of the BSAC. The Commission will be informed.
39. Invitation to meetings, including a proposed agenda and opportunity to give input, are sent out at least four weeks in advance. The agenda, listing the business to be considered at the meeting and relevant documentation are sent out at least 10 working days ahead of the meeting. If interpreting is to be provided, a request from members must be given to the Executive Secretary by a deadline set by the Secretariat. Web conference link will be provided where possible.
40. Meeting notes will be prepared and circulated as soon as possible, and members will have a chance to comment with a deadline of a week.
41. At the opening of the meeting, the Chair proceeds to the adoption of the agenda. Before doing so, the Chair verifies if some members wish to include points under “any other business”; such points are for information or discussion only unless all Executive Committee members agree otherwise. This rule is set out in the draft agenda.

42. If the Chair is unable to attend, the Vice-Chair will deputise. If neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair is able to attend, the meeting will be opened by a person appointed by the Chair and/or Vice-Chair, and he/she will carry out an election of Chair for that meeting.

The Management Team

The Management Team carries out its work within these terms of references:

43. The Management Team consists of:

- Chair of the Executive Committee,
- Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee,
- Chairs of the BSAC Working Groups (Demersal, Pelagic and Ecosystem Based Management Working Groups),
- Executive Secretary and Rapporteur.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Assembly are in copy of meeting agendas and minutes as mentioned in paragraph 45. They must be invited to join a management meeting where an agenda point concerns the General Assembly. In other cases, the Chair of the Management Team may invite the Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Assembly to join a management team meeting, where appropriate, for instance, when a Chair or Vice-Chair of the General Assembly has been recently appointed.

44. The BSAC Management Team will deal with administrative and organisational matters, including, but not limited to:

- Preparing drafts for work programmes and budgets,
- Discussing venues and agenda points for upcoming BSAC meeting,
- Addressing invitations to external meetings, projects, and consultations etc.

45. The Management Team apply the following procedures, documentation, communication and reporting:

- The Management Team will communicate mainly by e-mail and, if necessary, in person.
- The Management Team's meetings will be chaired by the Executive Committee Chair.
- The Management Team will meet whenever necessary (mostly anticipated before ExCom or other BSAC meetings).
- Any decisions to be made by the Team shall be reached by consensus. If that is not possible, the majority decides. Only in the event of a tie among the team members, the Chair shall decide. The Executive Secretary and Rapporteur do not vote.
- Meeting agendas and minutes will be sent to the ExCom and made available on the BSAC website.

46. With regard to representing the BSAC in external meetings, the following rules apply:

The Management Team can empower the Chair of the Executive Committee, the Vice-Chair or other members of the Executive Committee, or the Secretariat, to take part in external meetings on behalf of the BSAC.

In attending external meetings, the BSAC representative shall solely express the adopted opinions of the AC and shall not express personal views.

Full written reports on such meetings, following the usual BSAC template, shall subsequently be provided by the representative attending the meeting to the Secretariat for publication.

Working Group Procedures

47. All member organisations can participate in Working Groups (WGs).

48. The Secretariat will assist the WG Chair in organising the WG meetings. An invitation to participate in a WG, including a draft agenda, will be sent to members and placed on the BSAC website no less than one month in advance. While allowing for exceptional circumstances, updated agendas and documents will be submitted at least two weeks before the meeting to allow for internal discussions within member organisations.

49. All members may propose topics for WG discussion and circulate relevant documents through the Secretariat. This should normally be done no less than two weeks before the meeting to allow for inclusion on the updated agenda and, where relevant, be accompanied by the necessary documents. Working Group agendas are to be set after agreement between the WG Chair and the Secretariat.

50. At the opening of the meeting, the Chair proceeds to the adoption of the agenda. Before doing so, the Chair verifies if some members wish to include points under “any other business”; such points are for information or discussion only unless all WG members agree otherwise. This rule is set out in the draft agenda.

51. Member organisations who do not participate in a particular WG may give another member organisation the authority to represent their interests.

52. In cooperation with the Secretariat, the WG Chair can invite experts to WG meetings or can organise preliminary meetings to support the preparation of relevant documents.

53. The WG Chair will facilitate discussion and seek compromise if necessary. WG Members are responsible for the content of the documents. The WG Chair is responsible for the timely submission of drafted documents to the participants or to Executive Committee, where appropriate.

54. Working group minutes are not official BSAC positions and are approved by those participating at the WG meeting.

55. While allowing for exceptional circumstances, failure to comment by set deadlines will be regarded as non-opposition.

Development of draft BSAC advice

56. The WG presents draft positions to the Executive Committee for adoption, or advice on specific issues.
57. To facilitate the work of the WG, a Focus Group can be formed to develop a basic draft to help WG participants find consensus and compromise positions. The rapporteur should always be part of Focus Groups.

Focus Groups are temporary and exist only for the period needed to develop the basic draft they are working on. They have at least 5 members with, where possible, 60/40 representation of fisheries interests and other interest groups.

Where a Focus Group is oversubscribed, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee can consult with members and decide which organisations will be represented. Organisations not selected to join the Focus Group can be allocated the status of “corresponding Members” which means, that they do not attend the meetings of the Focus Group but are sent the reports of meetings and any draft papers that emerge and are given the opportunity to comment directly on the basic draft as it is developed. The Focus Group and its members are listed on the BSAC website.

The Focus Group agree on a Chair. The Focus Group also agrees on a person to prepare and develop the basic draft to whom comments are addressed.

The Focus Group can on occasion invite representatives from the Member States, other relevant EU bodies and appropriate experts to attend the Focus Group meetings and to provide background information or expert advice.

If members of the Focus Group wish the basic draft to be reviewed or commented on by others, it is their responsibility to pass the document on and to coordinate any response.

The basic draft of the Focus Group is sent to the relevant Working Group for consideration and possible further submission to the Executive Committee, unless the basic draft relates to points under discussion which do not specifically relate to an existing WG, in which case the document is presented directly to the Executive Committee.

58. Additional comments and modifications to a draft document submitted to a WG by its Chair via the secretariat or to a basic draft submitted by a Focus Group will be discussed and added during the WG, mentioning minority positions as noted in paragraph 59.

The WG Chair and participants agree on a reasonable deadline during the WG meeting for producing the final WG document, distribution to the WG members and receiving comments and minority positions. This will be coordinated between the rapporteur, WG Chair and the Secretariat.

59. WG participants are encouraged to seek consensus when possible. Where there is no consensus on the text, or objections to part or all of the text, WG participants holding minority positions will be mentioned succinctly along with the majority position in the body of the text. A detailed description explaining the difference in position should be made in a short annex.

60. When a draft document requires approval by the Executive Committee, the WG Chair will present the draft document to the Executive Committee which may adopt, adjust or reject the WG draft, entirely or in part.

If the Executive Committee does not fully agree with the contents of the draft document, the Executive Committee may refer the draft document back to the WG, or Focus Group as the case may be, for further work, or amend and adopt the draft document by consensus, or if necessary, by voting, especially where this is needed in order to provide timely BSAC recommendations.

If the draft from the WG is rejected, an explanation should be provided in writing by the Secretariat to the WG. Approval of the document by the Executive Committee is necessary before it is published or sent out as an official BSAC position.

A clear record is kept of who voted for, who against and who abstained within the Executive Committee.

A document is labelled as “draft” until it has been adopted by the Executive Committee.

61. The BSAC Secretariat is responsible for submitting the final text to the relevant recipients and for placing it on the BSAC website. All member organisations will receive copies of the approved document.

Responsibilities of the Working Group members attending the meetings

62. The members must observe the following rules:

- a) have clear authority to speak on behalf of their organisation.
- b) be knowledgeable about the WG subject, willing to look at it from different perspectives and have the authority to agree to a compromise position on behalf of their member organisation.
- c) be responsible for all communication concerning the advisory process within their own organisation.

Responsibilities of the Working Group Chair and the Focus Group Chair

63. The Chair has the following responsibilities:

- a) in cooperation with the Secretariat, ensure timely preparation and distribution of working documents for the meetings.
- b) moderate meetings and develop output which is inclusive of all views, without bias, and in good faith for fair and just stakeholder representation.
- c) encourage contributions from every participant, regardless of language barriers or other reasons that may prevent contribution.
- d) turn stakeholder conflicts into constructive and informative debate.
- e) delegate document tasks to the rapporteur, in coordination with the Secretariat, and support the activities of the rapporteur as needed.

Responsibilities of the Rapporteur

64. The Rapporteur has the following responsibilities:

- a) draft reports of meetings.
- b) when required, draft relevant documents in cooperation with the WG Chair and other participating members, in drafting groups prior to a meeting.
- c) update the draft documents during a meeting and, together with the meeting Chair, ensure that the documents reflect the views and discussions of the participants.
- d) support the activities of the meeting Chair as needed.
- e) in cooperation with the Secretariat, finalise the documents through circulation among relevant members by integrating comments and changes to the text as needed and by agreed deadlines.

Responsibilities of the Executive Secretary

65. The Executive Secretary has the following responsibilities:

- a) announce the meetings and distribute the documents.
- b) make sure the drafts and final texts are issued and distributed accordingly.
- c) coordinate with the meeting Chair any other activities essential for the smooth conduct of the meetings.

Invited participants and observers

66. The BSAC can be assisted by scientists from institutes of the Member States concerned or international bodies and other qualified scientists, invited to provide scientific, technical, economic, legal or other relevant advice. Experts do not vote.

67. The Executive Committee can invite representatives of the fisheries sector and other interest groups from third countries, including representatives from Regional Fisheries Organisations that have a fishing interest in the area or fisheries covered by BSAC to participate in the BSAC as active observers when issues which affect them are discussed.

68. Representatives of member organisations of the Executive Committee, representatives of the EU Baltic Member States, the European Commission the European Parliament and other relevant bodies can attend Executive Committee meetings, as well as the General Assembly, as active observers.

69. Active observers can speak and participate fully in discussions. Observers do not vote.

70. The BSAC is not responsible for the meeting costs of observers.

Performance reviews

71. The BSAC ensures that its activities are, at least every five years, subject to an independent performance review in line with Article 7a of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2015/242.

Final provisions

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

72. These Rules of Procedure are agreed by the BSAC General Assembly. Any amendments must be presented to members for comment at the Annual General Assembly and agreed by a two-thirds majority. They must have the consent of the European Commission.

73. These Rules of Procedures enter into force on the day of their adoption and replace the following BSAC texts:

- The Rules of Procedure adopted by the BSAC General Assembly on 15 May 2019
- Management Team Terms of Reference of 29 January 2019
- Working Group Procedures of 15 November 2016
- Best Practices for the Development and Presentation of BSAC advice of 15 May 2019

Dissolution

74. Dissolution of the BSAC requires a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Assembly.

75. After all debts are paid, remaining assets will be distributed amongst the EU Baltic Member States and the members of the BSAC.

ANNEX 1

Criteria for classifying members of the Advisory Councils under the categories 'sector organisations' and 'other interest groups'

1. In deciding on the classification of its members, the BSAC General Assembly shall classify a member as a 'sector organisation' when at least one of the following criteria is met:
 - a) The organisation represents or has direct or indirect economic interests in the sectors of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution, or retail of seafood,
 - b) A majority of the members of the organisation, either natural or legal persons, represent or have direct or indirect economic interests in the sectors of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution, or retail of seafood,
 - c) The organisation represents employees in the sectors related to commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution, or retail of seafood,
 - d) At least 50% of the organisation's funding originates from undertakings active in the field of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution, or retail of seafood,
 - e) The organisation fulfils at least one of the criteria in point 1(a) to 1 (d) and is active in the field of environment, consumers and human rights, health, promotion of equality or animal health or welfare.

2. An organisation shall be classified 'other interest group' when it does not meet any of the criteria laid down in paragraph 1 and:
 - a) is primarily active in the field of environment, consumers and human rights, health, promotion of equality, animal health or welfare or recreational or sport fishing, or
 - b) represents or has direct or indirect economic interests linked to the use of the marine environment or maritime space other than commercial fishing, aquaculture or the processing, marketing, distribution, and retail of seafood.

ANNEX 2

Code of Conduct for BSAC members and observers

Background

An external evaluation of the BSAC was carried out and presented to the BSAC Executive Committee on 29th January 2021. 1 It was agreed by the ExCom for a Working Group to look into the report, to describe solutions and propose actions for the BSAC to implement. An WG meeting met on Monday 26th April 2021. 2 It reviewed the evaluation report. One proposed action made by the Working Group was to draft a Code of Conduct for all members of the BSAC, and for observers. This Code of Conduct was presented to the General Assembly and Executive Committee, and was adopted by the BSAC on Wednesday 22nd September 2021.

Considering that:

- The Baltic Sea Advisory Council was established in 2006. Its main aim is to prepare and provide advice on the management of Baltic Sea fisheries in order to achieve a successful running of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy,
- EU Regulation 1380/2013 describes the role and function of the Advisory Councils,
- Commission Delegated Regulation 2017/1575 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242 lays down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy,
- The BSAC consists of organisations representing the fisheries and other interest groups affected by the CFP,
- The BSAC adopted Rules of Procedure on 15th May 2019, Working Group Procedures on 15th November 2016, and Terms of Reference for the Management Team on 29th January 2019.

The BSAC members have adopted this Code of Conduct:

When joining the BSAC

Representatives of organisations that join the BSAC undertake to:

- share the aims of the BSAC and contribute to achieving them in a loyal manner,
- abide by the BSAC rules of procedure and working group procedures,
- abide by the decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

When taking part in the work

The BSAC members and observers:

- come well prepared to the meetings, having read the relevant documentation,
- use appropriate language and tone and respect the meeting etiquette,
- take an active part in the work and activities of the BSAC,
- listen to and respect the opinions of others.

The office bearers:

- take responsibility for their area of work,
 - create a welcoming and conducive working environment,
 - listen to the views of the members and encourage active participation.
-