Fisheries Policy and Aquatic Biodiversity and Protected Areas Units
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

By e mail to: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management -Lena Tingström (Aquatic Biodiversity and Protected Areas, lena.tingstrom@havochvatten.se) and Malin Wilhelmsson (Fisheries Policy, malin.wilhelmsson@havochvatten.se)-,
cc: BALTFISH Presidency (baltfish@bmel.bund.de)

BSAC 2024-2025/18

Copenhagen, 13th September 2024

Subject: BSAC recommendations on the BALTFISH draft Joint Recommendation regarding six Swedish MPAs in Öresund in the Baltic Sea

Dear Madams,

Thank you for sharing the BALTFISH draft joint Recommendation with the BSAC[1]. The draft Joint Recommendation presents fisheries conservation measures in five marine protected areas.

The BSAC Executive Committee was informed about ongoing work by Sweden on the topic in May 2022. You have invited the BSAC to send comments on the Joint Recommendation.

There is no common BSAC agreed position on the topic.

The BSAC members were consulted, and one reply was received from the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation. It is attached to this letter.

We thank you for this consultation and will continue follow the discussions this Joint Recommendation in BALTFISH.

Kind regards,

Jarek Zieliński
BSAC Executive Committee Chair

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[1] Not publicly available yet

ANNEX: Individual responses

Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation

- In general, our opinion is that acoustic deterrent devices should not be used in MPAs because of the disturbance they cause to marine mammals and potentially other organisms. To minimise harbour porpoise bycatch static net fisheries should be closed all year, especially since both the Baltic Proper and Belt Sea harbour porpoise populations have been shown to be vulnerable to bycatch.

- Also, the delimitation of mesh size as larger or smaller than 120 mm is a little arbitrary since there is still no study available that shows a clear decrease of harbour porpoise bycatch risk below 120 mm. Therefore, we would propose to close all static net fisheries, not just those with larger mesh sizes.