Guidelines for the format and preparation of the
annual BSAC recommendations on the fishery in the Baltic

1. This particular yearly BSAC recommendation is a case where members must most likely always need "to agree to disagree" and all positions are listed in line with paragraphs 59 and 60 of the Rules of Procedure.

2. The Secretariat draws up a first draft recommendation based on input from the joint working group meeting and derived assumptions on majority positions. This is to avoid voting on each and every position which would force members into very "black and white" positions and would undermine the legal obligation to always seek consensus where possible (paragraph 5 (c) of the Rules of Procedure).

3. The positions will be set out in a table. The table will set out the ICES recommendations, the % change compared to the previous year TAC; the BSAC position[1] and minority positions. The accompanying text in the table should be limited to 1-2 sentences.

4. There should be only one BSAC position in the BSAC recommendation column.

   Members are therefore encouraged after receiving the **first** draft to send an email clarifying their views on the positions.

5. ExCom takes, as far as possible, a final decision on this recommendation **during its meeting**[2]. A written procedure according to paragraph 32 of the Rules of procedure should be the exception. However, before the recommendation will be submitted to the Commission, the Secretariat will allow some days for ExCom members to make editorial comments on their own position.

   Example of table[3]:

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[1] Representing at least a majority of the views of the Executive Committee organisation present and voting.

[2] The aim is to encourage as many ExCom members as possible to actively participate in the decision making:

[3] The objective is to have a table which gives an easy overview (accompanied by explanatory text):

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 20XX	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 20XX	BSAC minority positions TAC 20XX
Stock name	XXX,XXX tonnes (basis for figure) (% change compared to TAC last year)	XXX,XXX tonnes (basis for figure)	- XXX,XXX tonnes (basis for figure)[1] - XXX,XXX tonnes (basis for figure)[2] - XXX tonnes (basis for figure)[3]

[1] Name of organisation 1, name of organisation 2
[2] Name of organisation 3, name of organisation 4
[3] Name of organisation 5, name of organisation 6