



Baltic Sea Advisory Council
Executive Committee Chair
Jarek Zieliński and
Pelagic WG Chair
Lise Laustsen
chair@bsac.dk
em@bsac.dk
By e-mail only

Bernd Söntgerath

Head of Unit

526 – Sea fisheries management and
fisheries controls, IWC

POSTAL ADDRESS Rochusstraße 1, 53123 Bonn, Germany

PHONE +49 228 99 529-3303

FAX +49 228 99 529-4262

E-MAIL 526@bmel.bund.de

INTERNET www.bmel.de

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Consultation of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council by the BALTFISH Control Experts Group

Dear Jarek, dear Lise,

thank you for your letter of 17 March 2025 regarding the implementation of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation and for offering your support and expertise. Please let me assure you that this is highly appreciated.

I certainly agree that the amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (Fisheries Control Regulation) by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 as well as the expected delegated and implementing acts yet to be adopted by the European Commission will have a relevant impact on fisheries. This applies not only to the Baltic Sea, but is true for all Union waters and regional groups.

In this regard, please allow me to clarify the role of the BALTFISH Control Experts Group (CEG). The CEG is ready to discuss issues of joint interest with relevance to the Baltic Sea, which are brought up by its members or by the BALTFISH High Level Group (HLG). However, it is not dedicated to systematic or comprehensive discussions of all possible aspects of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation. Those discussions are being held in the relevant Commission expert groups.

Moreover, the CEG's Terms of Reference provide for CEG conventions "in a broad format or in a restricted one (BALTFISH Member States' officials only) as decided by the Presidency in consultation with Member States. The participation of the Commission, industry, scientists and other stakeholders at meetings etc. should be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the agenda."

This being said, I am sure that the respective Chairmanship of the CEG will always be open for BSAC's suggestions and remarks on specific topics connected with the revised Fisheries Control Regulation. They might inspire and initiate further discussions.

It is also be worth mentioning that the CEG does not meet on a regular basis and that there is no CEG meeting scheduled for the near future.

However, I will be happy to bring your letter to the attention of the HLG and put your request on the agenda of the next HLG meeting in June 2025.

Kind regards

Bernd Söntgerath