

**BSAC Executive Committee**  
**20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 9:00-13:00 CEST**  
**Luleå, Sweden**  
**Report**

**1. Welcome by the BSAC Chair Jarek Zielinski**

**Jarek Zieliński, the ExCom Chair** welcomed in-person and online participants. He announced a study trip to the wild salmon sanctuary in the late afternoon.

**a. Apologies, quorum, AOB, and adoption of the agenda**

A quorum was present for the meeting.

**The Executive Secretary** presented the agenda for approval.

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

**b. Adoption of the *minutes from the last ExCom meeting (27<sup>th</sup> January 2025)* and review of the action items**

**The ExCom Chair** presented the action items from the last ExCom and their current status. Progress was noted with respect to most actions.

The minutes from last meeting were adopted.

**c. Two ExCom members to check the minutes**

Lise Laustsen and Flemming Kjærulf agreed to check the minutes.

**2. From the Secretariat**

**a. Presentation of annual BSAC report**

**b. Final technical report for DG MARE**

**c. Financial statement for 2024-2025**

**d. Work programme 2025-2026**

**e. Operating budget 2025-2026**

**Annual BSAC report and final technical report to DG MARE**

**The Executive Secretary** presented the BSAC nineteenth annual report, presenting the work done in the 19<sup>th</sup> year of operation of the BSAC. The Annual Report has been sent to the members via email prior to the meeting. This report outlines our key focus areas, working group outputs, and collaborative efforts with stakeholders across the Baltic region. He noted that the BSAC successfully implemented most of its planned work programme for 2024-2025, while also undertaking additional complementary actions. Throughout the year, the BSAC organised 6 Working Group meetings, 4 Executive Committee meetings, 1 General Assembly, and 1 Extraordinary General Assembly to vote on revised Rules of Procedure. Special events included a workshop on predators, a webinar on climate change, and the inaugural meeting of the Focus Group on science. The BSAC has continued to implement recommendations from the 2021 External Performance Review, with particular emphasis on improving internal working procedures.

The BSAC focused on several cross-cutting issues throughout 2024-2025, developing recommendations on fishing opportunities for 2025 based on ICES advice released in May 2024. The BSAC also followed up on the Communication regarding "The common fisheries policy today and tomorrow" and its connection to the BSAC White Paper from 2022. A workshop on monitoring and enforcement of the Landing Obligation was organised with the European Fisheries Control Agency and BALTFISH in November 2024. The BSAC continued its focus on climate change with a second webinar held in August 2024, examining adaptation strategies and potential impacts on Baltic Sea fish stocks and fisheries. He explained that the Annual Technical Report for DG Mare follows the same lines as the BSAC Annual Report. The Executive Committee was asked to endorse these documents before their adoption by the General Assembly

**The ExCom** adopted the BSAC Annual Report and the Annual Technical Report for DG Mare.

### **Financial statement for 2024-2025**

**The Executive Secretary** informed that on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 the BSAC concluded its second year under the new lump-sum system, where the grant is fixed but allows flexibility in budget reallocations provided the work programme is followed. The financial statement for 2024-2025 indicates that the BSAC is close to achieving its budget (93%). A small overspend is noted in some categories, i.e. preparation of meetings. The financial statement will be sent to the Commission on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**The ExCom Vice Chair** encouraged members to utilise available BSAC funds for usefull and merit consultations with external experts. Like other international bodies, the budget utilisation should aim for 100%. He underlined that repeated underutilisation of the budget may lead to a reduction in funding.

**The ExCom** adopted the financial statement for 2024-2025.

### **Work programme 2025-2026**

#### **Operating budget 2025-2026**

**The Executive Secretary** informed that both the BSAC work programme and the draft estimated operating budget for 2025-2026 had been approved by the ExCom in January 2025. On 1<sup>st</sup> February, these documents were sent to the Commission to apply for the new grant money.

**The Executive Secretary** informed that the work programme for 2025-26 follows the same approach as in previous year. The budget was increased by 1.9%, in line with the allowed inflation rate (2%) with no major re-allocations between the budget lines.

**The ExCom** took note.

**The ExCom Chair** underlined that the BSAC members are always invited to give input to the work programme to better reflect the discussions in the BSAC.

**A representative of the OIG** stated that in his opinion study trips bring added value to the discussions held in meetings and should be organised more often.

**The ExCom Vice-Chair** encouraged the members to take part in relevant external meetings on behalf of the BSAC. Members should communicate their interest to the BSAC Secretariat<sup>1</sup>.

**The ExCom Chair** stated that holding meetings in different locations around the Baltic also brings value to the work of the BSAC. He encouraged in person participation to meetings.

**A representative of the OIG** stated that the site visit to the port of Skagen during the Joint Working Group meeting in October 2024 had been very enriching in terms of learning more on effective landing control. She also encouraged the BSAC to organise study trips focused on habitat restorations.

**The ExCom** took note.

#### **f. Approval of the appointment of the new Executive Secretary, Alexander Ben Embarek as per point 15. of the general section.**

**The ExCom Chair** referred to the BSAC Rules of Procedure pt. 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.* He asked the ExCom to proceed to the approval of the new Executive Secretary.

**The Executive Secretary** underlined that he looks forward to moving the organisation in the direction the members want to go.

**A small scale representative** asked the new Executive Secretary for better communication with the members in the future.

**A representative of the OIG** praised the work of the new Executive Secretary.

**The ExCom** approved by consensus the appointment of the Executive Secretary, Alexander Ben Embarek for 3 year period.

### **3. Working Group reports**

#### **a. Pelagic Working Group**

**The Pelagic WG Chair** informed that the Working Group met in October 2024 and February 2025. In October 2024, the Working Group dealt with the Commission's evaluation of the CFP and revisited three chapters of the White Paper (on scientific advice, regionalisation and subsidies) and discussed what additional remarks might be relevant with a view to preparing the BSAC recommendations on the CFP. The Working Group discussed the ICES advice for herring in SDs 30-31, published by ICES on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Questions and discussions followed. A representative of ProSea Marine Education presented the Catching the Potential project, as the first step in the discussions foreseen by the BSAC on how to attract a new generation of fishers in the industry. She underlined that this topic should be part of the work programme for the current year. An update of stickleback trial fisheries carried out in Denmark was presented.

In February 2025, the Working Group discussed the implementation of the new Control Regulation. The Working Group decided to send letters to the Commission and BALTFISH urging for better stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the Control Regulation. A reply from

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant external meetings are listed on BSAC web site [External Meetings - Baltic Sea Advisory Council](#)

the German BALTFISH Presidency was received on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and a reply from DG MARE on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Following an update from projects – DNAMIX and DNACATCH the Working Group discussed the use of DNA analysis to monitor and manage species composition within mixed catches from mixed pelagic fisheries.

## **b. Demersal Working Group**

**The Demersal Working Group Chair** informed that the Working Group met in October 2024 and February 2025. In October, the Working Group dealt with the Commission’s evaluation of the CFP and revisited three chapters of the White Paper. The WG focused on three chapters of the White Paper (Ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, MSY and social dimension). The representative of DG MARE presented an update on the Delegated and Implementing Acts, regarding the obligation to use new flatfish gear in SDs 22-26. The Working Group will continue the work on selectivity. The Working Group decided to recommend to the ExCom that a joint BSAC WG could meet in person in the autumn 2025 to discuss the cod recovery plan. The structure and components of such plan could first be discussed in the Focus Group on Science. The Working Group included salmon to its agenda in 2025-26, together with the EBM Working Group. In this context, in February 2025, the Working Group hosted a presentation on the impact of climate change on salmon stocks in February 2025.

## **c. EBM Working Group**

**The EBM Working Group Chair** gave a short report on the activities of the WG in 2024-2025. He reminded the ExCom that he was appointed new chair in October 2024.

The Working Group met on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The main item on the agenda of EBM Working Group was the Commission’s evaluation of the CFP, COM launched evidence in June 2024 to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The Working Group revisited two chapters of the White Paper (on climate adaptation and recreational fisheries) and discussed what additional remarks could be made with a view to preparing the BSAC recommendations on the CFP.

The HELCOM Secretariat presented the ongoing work on the revision of the HELCOM Recommendations on salmon. The BSAC members were asked to submit any further input to the HELCOM draft recommendation on salmon after the meeting. A new draft is available but not yet finalized; there is still time to provide input. The study “Invasive species in the Baltic Sea and their impact on commercial fish stocks was also presented. A general update on the eel was presented, including the ongoing work in the Joint Special Group and HELCOM. The BSAC Secretariat followed the work of HELCOM (EG Fish-M group) on HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 focusing on salmon and the implementation of BSAP action S50.

The BSAC decided that salmon will be on the agenda of the Demersal and EBM WG in 2025-26 (HELCOM recommendation, Baltic Salmon Management Plan). Eel was discussed in the WG meeting in September 2024 in the context of the EU actions in the framework of the Marine Action Plan and planned HELCOM research proposal.

The WG will meet on 21<sup>st</sup> May to discuss, among other, the EBFM definition.

**A small-scale fisheries representative** asked whether there will be any follow up to the letters sent to BALTFISH and DG MARE.

**The Pelagic WG Chair** drew attention to the replies received from the BALTFISH Presidency and DG MARE. The Commission underlined that the consultation process of implementing and delegated acts to the new CR will be carried out through the stakeholder consultations conducted by the Members States. The BSAC can only comment once it has access to the draft acts. The reply received from the BALTFISH Presidency followed the same lines.

**A small-scale fisheries representative** proposed to ask the Commission to provide access to the draft implementing and delegated acts and allow the BSAC to participate more extensively in the discussions on the implementation of the Control Regulation and provide its expertise.

**A representative of recreational fishers from Denmark** stated that following the entering into force of the so-called stop-the-clock directive<sup>2</sup>, aimed at simplifying the EU rules, the BSAC should call the Commission to remove some irrelevant and redundant provisions from the new Control Regulation.

**The ExCom took note.** The ExCom noted that the implementation of the Control, Regulation is under the work priorities in the BSAC Work Programme for 2025-2026.

#### **d. Science focus group**

**The ExCom Vice Chair, also acting as the new Chair of the Focus Group on Science** informed that the first exploratory meeting of the group took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The meeting discussed the objectives of the Focus Group. The main aim of the group is to allow BSAC membership to reach more consensus on outstanding questions referring to fisheries science, in order to make better use of science in fisheries management. The Focus Group decided to ask the Secretariat to draft a revised ToR and distribute it to the members of the Focus Group for comments. The draft ToR will following these comments be discussed again in a new correspondence and will be finalised during the next meeting of the Focus Group (tentatively in June 2025).

**A representative of the OIG** asked whether the discussion on the cod recovery plan will take place in the framework of the Focus Group on Science or the Demersal Working Group.

**The Chair of the Focus Group on Science** replied that a cod recovery plan is a complex and large issue that requires discussion and input from several members. The way to tackle this issue will be further discussed with the Demersal WG Chair.

**The ExCom Chair** stated that according to the Rules of Procedure<sup>3</sup>, focus groups are temporary and exist only for the period needed to develop the basic draft advice they are working on, as input to the relevant working group.

**The EBM Working Group Chair** stated that the EBM Working Group will closely cooperate with the Science Focus Group as ecosystem considerations will certainly be part of its ToR.

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<sup>2</sup> [The Stop-the-Clock Directive](#) is a European legislative measure that entered into force on **17 April 2025**. It is part of a broader Omnibus package aimed at amending European sustainability legislation, specifically postponing the application dates for certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements. The European Parliament approved this directive on **3 April 2025**, following negotiations to support the Commission's proposal. The directive aims to ensure that regulatory requirements do not hinder the EU's competitiveness while providing legal certainty to businesses.

<sup>3</sup> [BSACROP-adopted17.04.2024.pdf](#) Rule 57

The **ExCom Chair** stated that given the complexity of comments received to the Terms of Reference of the Science Focus Group the next meeting should be held in person, either in Copenhagen or in Arlanda airport terminal, as the Energy Transition Focus Group did in the past.

**A small-scale fisheries representative** underlined that a systematic overview of relevant ICES work is important for the BSAC, especially in the context of benchmark workshops, such as the most recent one on Baltic plaice. The BSAC had not been invited to participate. He pointed to the need to ensure that the BSAC has a representative in ICES workshops on Baltic stocks.

The **ExCom Chair** asked to Chair of the Focus Group on Science to include the topic of closer cooperation with ICES in the Focus Group agenda.

The **ExCom** adopted the Working Group reports.

#### 4. Study on survival of salmon released from pontoon traps, Sara Königson (SLU)

**Sara Königson, a researcher at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)** presented the study on survival of salmon released from pontoon traps<sup>4</sup>. Traps can be used for various fish species. The study examined the direct survival of salmon caught in pontoon traps and was conducted in cooperation with 6 fishers in SD 30-31.

The experimental set-up consisted of 6 control traps, 4 traps with selection panel in emptying hose, 5 traps with selection panel in the entrance to the fish chamber. 40 of 41 (98%) salmon survived for 6-7 days after being caught and handled when traps were emptied. The study concluded:

- Selection panels prevent salmon from entering the trap but may still allow white fish to enter. It should be examined whether the selection panels still work if there are large schools of fish. More development is needed for selection panel, as it will probably be more effective if other material is used.
- Selection panel in emptying hose select salmon from white fish, but fishers think this is ergonomically impractical.
- High direct survival rate (98%) of fish caught and emptied through an emptying hose. Damages on fish snout and fins were observed. It was concluded that it would be interesting to prolong the study time.

**A representative of the OIG** asked whether injuries caused by pontoon traps to salmon have a significant impact on the salmon migrating back to the rivers. In his view a wide spread use of pontoon traps could be problematic as traps also delay the return of salmon to rivers.

**Sara Königson** replied that the impact of prolonged stay in traps on salmon has not been studied. It may however increase the mortality of salmon caused by seals. Damages sustained by fish in traps require further studies.

**Another representative of the OIG** agreed that a prolonged migration could have a negative impact on salmon. In his view, the mortality of salmon before entering the trap nets should be investigated. There is a need to introduce measures to minimise the damages caused to fish by

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<sup>4</sup> Presentation at [Past Meetings - Baltic Sea Advisory Council](#)

traps. In this context he stated that the length of leader arms that could cause damages to salmon when entering the trap is limited in Sweden, but not limited in Finland.

**Sara Königson** stated that the study investigated the hidden effects of traps on fish. The damage was estimated to affect approx. 50% for salmon and 80% for herring. She underlined that the mortality caused by seals is significant and might further increase with increasing seal population.

**The representative of anglers** appreciated the advantages of pontoon traps shown in the study, indicating high survival rate of salmon after release from the traps. In his view, cumulative mortality of salmon caused by different factors should also be considered. He asked whether the study will be continued throughout the whole migration season and it included tagging of fish.

**Sara Königson** replied that fish were tagged in 2021 and 2023. There are no plans to repeat the tagging. The experiment was carried out in the beginning of the migration season in SD 30 and the number of caught salmon was limited to 250.

**A small-scale fisheries representative** asked about the cost of a pontoon trap used in the study. He also inquired whether the mortality rate is correlated to the time spent by salmon in the traps. He asked the presenter to explain what is meant under “hidden damage” and whether any quantitative data on damages and mortality had been obtained through interviews with fishers.

**Sara Königson** stated that the cost of the pontoon trap developed by fishers in collaboration with SLU is high, but it is the most ergonomic fishing gear, that has permitted to continue salmon fishery in the northern part of the Baltic. She underlined that other studies on mortality show similar survival rates close to 100% for up to 4 days spent by fish in the traps. She explained that “hidden damages” refer to seal-induced damages by scaring away fish or catching fish without leaving any trace. Hidden damages are hard to quantify.

**A fisheries representative from Finland** stated that pontoon traps are the most commonly used gears in Finland for fishing salmon. The number of trap nets is strictly limited to minimise any threat to salmon populations. In Finland, only one trap net per fisher is allowed in the beginning of the season when migration is occurring.

**A representative of the OIG** pointed to the by-catch of salmon in trap nets when fishing white fish, before salmon fishing starts. There is evidence that traps catch more salmon than white fish.

**Sara Königson** informed that the results of the study on survival of salmon released from pontoon traps will soon be published (in Swedish).

**The ExCom Chair** thanked Sara Königson for the presentation.

## 5. Multi-AC letter on the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) agreed by 11 Advisory Councils<sup>5</sup>

**The Executive Secretary** informed that eleven Advisory Councils (ACs) had issued a joint letter on the future of EU fisheries funding. They stressed the need for a dedicated financial instrument for fisheries, aquaculture, and maritime affairs post-2027. The letter was sent to Commissioner Kadis and DG MARE on 16 April 2025. The recent communication of the Commission titled “The road to the next multiannual financial framework” outlines a comprehensive overview for the post-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and for the next generation of funding programmes. The eleven Advisory Councils (ACs) believe it is essential and timely to recall the importance of a

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<sup>5</sup> [111\\_Multi\\_AC\\_letter\\_on\\_MFF\\_EN\\_signed.pdf](#)

dedicated financial instrument for fisheries, aquaculture and maritime affairs. It is particularly important to emphasise the role that these sectorial funds have played, since 2007, in supporting the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the EU. The ACs highlighted the key topics identified by stakeholders bullet points of the key topics identified that the EU Commission must address under the next funding period, such as assistance to coastal and rural communities, support for generational renewal through greater incentives, training courses for young people, ensuring food security and safety in the EU through the provision of healthy and affordable aquatic foods, supporting health and safety onboard fishing and aquaculture vessels, on aquaculture sites and in processing factories, supporting the development and uptake of selective and low impact fishing and aquaculture gears, the modernisation and decarbonisation of the fishing and aquaculture production and processing factories.

The ACs highlighted the importance of maintaining and enhancing the participation by stakeholder organisations in the EU decision-making process.

The letter was consulted with the ExCom members. One amendment was received from an ExCom member.

**A representative of the OIG** thanked the BSAC Secretariat for taking onboard the proposed amendment to the text.

**A small-scale fisheries representative** stated that in his opinion, a BSAC recommendation on the future of funding would better reflect the specificities of the Baltic fleets and the needs in terms of funding, rather than a joint AC letter.

**The ExCom Chair** underlined that the value of a letter signed by 11 ACs should not be underestimated as it constitutes a strong call addressed to the Commission. He agreed that the BSAC should provide advice to the Commission and BALTFISH on the future funding programme, using the expertise of its members, listing the priorities from the Baltic perspective. He proposed to take this matter up in the autumn, in a dedicated session or during the ExCom meeting.

**A representative of the OIG** agreed that the future funding should be discussed in a dedicated meeting.

**The ExCom** took note.

## 6. Preparing the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BSAC

*The BSAC was established in 2006. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated in the beginning of 2026. BSAC members are asked to come with proposals how to celebrate this anniversary.*

**The ExCom Chair** asked the members for proposals how to celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSAC. He proposed to start the celebrations in November, on the occasion of the visit of EFCA patrol vessel to the port of Gdynia. The final event could take place at the ExCom in May 2026. A special workshop or seminar summing up the work of the BSAC in 20 years could take place during the ExCom in January, to be held in Stockholm, the capital of the BALTFISH Presidency. The Swedish Presidency could be asked to propose an agenda of such seminar.

**The ExCom** decided to discuss how to celebrate at the next ExCom meeting in June. BSAC members were requested to come forward with proposals as well as pictures from the past 20 years, illustrating the work of the BSAC.

## 7. AOB

- **Members to update their contact details, addresses, mails and phone numbers.**

The **Executive Secretary** requested the members of the ExCom to inform the Secretariat ([em@bsac.dk](mailto:em@bsac.dk)) on any changes in their contact details.

- **BSAC meetings in the second half of 2025-26.**

The **Executive Secretary** informed that in accordance with the work programme, the BSAC plans to hold online meetings of Demersal, Pelagic and EBM Working Groups, ExCom in October/November (hybrid), ExCom in January (hybrid), and Demersal, Pelagic and EBM Working Groups in March, as well as meetings of Focus Group on science.

The **ExCom** decided that the dates and venues of the meetings in the second half of 2025-26 will be decided by correspondence, before the end of June. The updated meeting planner will then be sent to the Commission.

### **ExCom on 26<sup>th</sup> June**

The **ExCom Chair** informed that he had invited the Commissioner to attend the ExCom meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025. A reply was received from the Commissioner's cabinet informing that he will not be able to participate as he will be on mission abroad at that period. The ExCom Chair proposed to invite a member of his cabinet to the ExCom in June and asked the participants to propose topics to be discussed.

A **representative of the OIG** proposed a discussion on progress in the implementation of the Maritime Action Plan with the Commissioner or representatives of his Cabinet, in the context of the Joint Special Group meeting to support the implementation of the Marine Action Plan, taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

A **small-scale fisheries representative** proposed to discuss a possible review of Multiannual Plan for the Baltic (MAP) with the Commission.

The **ExCom** decided to ask the members to submit to the Secretariat proposals for topics that could be discussed with the representatives of the Commission at the ExCom until Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. A letter addressed to the Cabinet of Commissioner Kadis will be send thereafter.

### **Joint Working Group – presentation of ICES advice - seeking better formulae for producing BSAC recommendations on the annual fishing opportunities**

A **small-scale fisheries representative** proposed to ask ICES to delegate scientists responsible for stock assessment to present ICES advice for 2026 for individual stocks. He stated that while the advice presented by the ACOM Vice-Chair gives an overarching image of the advice for all stocks, questions related to the advice on particular stocks require input from stock assessors.

**Some participants** underlined that the presentation by the ACOM Vice-Chair of the ICES advice during the Joint Working Group in mid-June does not make much sense, as it comes too late for the preparation of the BSAC advice in due time to deliver it to the Member States before the BALTFISH meeting. They proposed to have the presentation just after the release of the ICES advice in the beginning of June. They also proposed to ask experts from national institutes engaged in stock assessment to deliver the presentation of the advice.

**Several participants** agreed that presentation of individual stocks by stock assessors would permit the members to better understand the ICES science in the advice. The information received directly from stock assessors would represent a significant added value to the recommendations on the fishing opportunities produced by the BSAC.

**The ExCom Chair** thanked the participants for their constructive approach to the proposed new formulae for producing the BSAC recommendation on the annual fishing opportunities. He proposed to address Colm Lordan, the ACOM Chair, to change the format of the presentation of ICES advice by engaging stock assessors to present advice for different stocks. He underlined that the presentation of individual stocks by stock assessors would permit to improve the BSAC recommendations on the TACs by enhancing the quality and the relevance of the recommendations to the decision-makers. He stated that by improving the process within which the BSAC develops its own recommendations would also help to reach consensus-based decisions by the BSAC members. He pointed out that presenting the ICES advice so late does not make sense, as it does not allow for the presentation of BSAC recommendations to the Member States at the BALTFISH Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

In the context of the discussion on the BSAC recommendation on the fishing opportunities for 2026, planned on 17-18 June in the Joint Working Group, **several participants** stated that many members of the BSAC come to the working group with their agreed positions. In this context, **a fisheries representative from Sweden** encouraged a flexible approach of all BSAC members in discussions related to the fishing opportunities.

**The ExCom Vice-Chair** proposed to ask ICES to deliver the presentation of the advice within two weeks of the publication of the advice.

**A representative of recreational fishers from Denmark** drew the attention to the fact that OIG is composed of different organisations that should be treated as individual members.

**The ExCom agreed** that receiving this information early in the BSAC advice development process—and directly from those who conducted the assessments—would provide significant added value and enhance the quality and relevance of the BSAC's recommendations to the Member States and the European Commission.

**The ExCom decided** to ask ICES to deliver the presentation within two weeks of the publication of the advice and to engage experts directly involved in the individual stock assessments in presenting their findings for respective stocks, in order to improve the the process by which the BSAC develops its advice and to get in-depth understanding of scientific advice within the BSAC

### **Review the maximum reimbursement ceiling**

After a short discussion, **the ExCom decided** to ask the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for revised hotel reimbursement ceilings.

**The ExCom Chair** referred to participation in external meetings such as BALTFISH. He asked the members to inform the Secretariat if they wish to participate on behalf of the BSAC. Reimbursement for external meetings will be considered on a case-by- case basis.

### **Template for recommendation on TACs**



**A small-scale fisheries representative** referred to the BSAC recommendation on the fishing opportunities and asked how to handle the Russian share. He noted that the Russian catches are higher than the old key.

**A fisheries representative from Estonia** was of the opinion that the agreed allocations should be used in the BSAC recommendation to calculate the Russian share. The current data on Russian catches is unofficial and thus not reliable.

The **ExCom Chair** thanked all participants for good discussions.

#### **ACTION POINTS:**

| <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Status</b>  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Focus Group on science</b>   | Possible in person meeting in June  | Doodle to be sent by the Secretariat to FG members to decide on the date of the next meeting |
| <b>Discuss allocation of EMFAF funds</b>  | Focus on the Baltic – BSAC should provide advice to COM and BALTFISH on Baltic funds – EMFAF. | To be discussed in the ExCom in October/November   |
| <b>Preparing 20th anniversary of the BSAC</b>                                       | Celebration of 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSAC in November 2025 and January 2026     | Members asked to come back with proposals, discussion in ExCom on 26 <sup>th</sup> June      |
| <b>Members to update their contact details, addresses, mails and phone numbers.</b> | Members asked to update their contact details   | Contact Ewa <a href="mailto:em@bsac.dk">em@bsac.dk</a>                                       |
| <b>Dates and location of meetings in the second half of the year</b>                | Meeting planner for the second half 2025-26 to be sent to DG MARE                             | Secretariat to send a proposal with dates before the ExCom in June                           |
| <b>ExCom 26th June</b>  | Send invitation to the Commissioner's cabinet   | Letter to be sent after the meeting  |
| <b>BSAC to ask ICES to change the format of advice presentation</b>                 | Send request to ACOM Chair  | Letter to be sent after the meeting  |
| <b>Reimbursement ceilings for hotel</b>   | Secretariat to propose new ceilings   |  |