

By email to:
Colm Lordan
ACOM Chair

Ref: BSAC/2025-26/2

Copenhagen, May 2025

Subject: Presentation of the ICES advice for the Baltic Sea, in year 2025.

Dear Colm Lordan,

As we approach the time for this year's presentation of the ICES advice for the Baltic Sea, the BSAC would, as always, greatly appreciate ICES delivering this presentation.

Following recent discussions within the BSAC Executive Committee, I would like to raise the question of whether the format of this year's presentation could be reconsidered.

In order to improve the process by which BSAC develops its own advice, we would appreciate if the ICES presentation takes place within two weeks of the publication of the advice. Furthermore, rather than a single representative presenting, we suggest that the experts directly involved in the individual stock assessments participate in presenting their respective findings.

We fully understand that this approach may place additional demands on ICES. However, there is a strong consensus among BSAC members that receiving this information early in the advice development process—and directly from those who conducted the assessments—would provide significant added value. This would enhance the quality and relevance of the BSAC's recommendations to the Member States and the European Commission.

We also see this proposal as part of our broader efforts to foster a more shared and in-depth understanding of scientific advice within the BSAC.

To facilitate this new format, we propose that the presentation be held online.

The BSAC Secretariat and I are available at your convenience to discuss this proposal further. We look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation with ICES again this year. If it isn't possible to change the format of presenting the ICES advice this year, the BSAC would like to have a dialog about our proposed changes to the format before the release of the advice next year.

Kind regards,

Jarek Zieliński

BSAC Executive Committee Chair