

BALTIC SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL at BALTFISH Forum meeting

Monday, 8th September 2025, Stockholm

Current BSAC priorities for work with BALTFISH



1. Recent BSAC key recommendations
2. BSAC work priorities
3. BSAC recommendations for the fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea in 2026
4. Upcoming meetings

1- Recent BSAC key recommendations

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- Consolidated response on BSAC views on the draft revised HELCOM common understanding of ecosystem-based fisheries management
- DRAFT BSAC advice on implementation of the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management in the Baltic Sea **under preparation**
- Recommendations on 2026 TACs
- BSAC response to the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council
"Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2026"



2- BSAC work priorities

The BSAC has identified 7 work priorities:

1. Fish stock sustainability: fishing opportunities recommendations.
2. Fisheries management, improving the regulations and their implementation: Common Fisheries Policy, Landing Obligation, Technical Measures Regulations, Control Regulation.
3. Ecosystem approach, species interactions and environmental policies.
4. Climate change and fisheries.
5. Fisheries as a sustainable, protein-rich seafood.
6. Socio-economic dimension of the CFP and recreational fisheries.
7. Regionalisation, cooperation, communication.



2. BSAC work priorities

BSAC work priorities: horizontal issues for all Working Groups

- Recommendations on fishing opportunities for 2026.
- Evaluation of the CFP
- Follow the implementation of the Commission Marine Action Plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems and of BSAC recommendations on the topic.
- Recreational fisheries: Towards a balanced and proportionate policy for recreational fisheries under the Common Fisheries Policy, work will include measures to strengthen reporting and data collection from recreational fisheries.
- Management of seals and other predators and interactions with fisheries
- BSAC Science Focus Group
- OCEAN PACT



2. BSAC work priorities

Follow up on the letter to ACOM Chair, asking for a change in the format of advice presentation

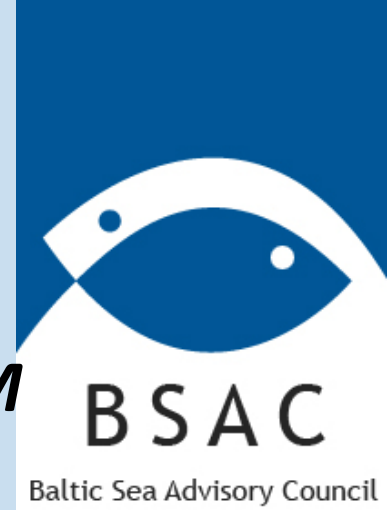
The BSAC asked for ICES advice to be presented directly upon release with experts present to answer more specific questions

The BSAC is in consensus that receiving information early in the advice development process—and directly from those who conducted the assessments—would provide significant added value.



2. BSAC work priorities

- **Follow up on the letter to ACOM Chair, *reply received from ACOM Chair***



The experts contributing to ICES work are not individually responsible for the ICES advice nor is their time controlled or supported by ICES. So, what you propose is something that ICES can implement.

ICES could reach out to the relevant experts and explore their capacity and willingness to attend. ICES could review and have further dialogue before the advice release next year.

BSAC Science Focus Group will discuss how to improve the current advice framework.

. BSAC work priorities

- **BSAC Science Focus Group:**

A newly established group where we will create consensus suggestions on how to improve co-operation between science and management from a Baltic fisheries perspective.



. BSAC work priorities

- BSAC recommendations on energy transition**

The BSAC will review its recommendations published in 2023, in the light of the new developments in the framework of the Energy Transition Partnership.

BSAC plans to reactivate its Energy Transition Focus Group- for this purpose



2. BSAC work priorities

Demersal Working Group, chair Teija Aho

- Developing a cod recovery plan. Structure, components and goals to be discussed in the autumn demersal working group.
- Salmon in collaboration with the EBM WG (HELCOM recommendation, Baltic Salmon Management Plan).
- Further discussions related to the predator management (draft European cormorant management plan)



2. BSAC work priorities

Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Working Group, chair Matti Ovaska

- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive: ongoing review, including working on descriptors that are relevant to fisheries.
- Integrated sea use management/maritime spatial planning: continue working in particular on offshore windfarms developments.
- Ecosystem approach, species interactions and environmental policies: Marine Action Plan, eel.
- Salmon in collaboration with the Demersal WG (HELCOM recommendation, Baltic Salmon Management Plan, information on new studies on natural mortality and species interaction e.g. salmon and herring)
- How to better incorporate the EBM into the scientific advice. BSAC is currently drafting **“Advice on implementation of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management in the Baltic Sea”**



2. BSAC work priorities

Pelagic Working Group, chair Lise Laustsen

- Investigate further work on management of the western Baltic spring spawning herring
- Bothnian bay herring, closely follow scientific analysis and measures proposed, and if relevant, give advise other herring stocks.
- Follow up on stickleback and trial fisheries in the Baltic
- Work on species interactions between sprat, herring and cod (in close cooperation with the Demersal WG)
- Discuss how to improve the data collection in pelagic fisheries.



2. BSAC work priorities



Virtual coffee meetings

- As a priority, BSAC would like to continue virtual meetings with BALTFISH Presidency.
- BSAC wish to continue the Baltic roundtable meeting and discussion with Commissioner Kadis, prior to the Agri-Fisheries Council in October (14th October 2025)

3. BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic in 2026

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations



- **The recommendations** were developed after the presentation of the ICES advice by ICES Vice-Chair of ACOM, Dorleta Garcia, and the following discussions, at the Joint Working Group held on 17th June 2025 and the Executive Committee meeting on 26th June 2025. **The recommendations were agreed in July 2025**

The recommendations focus on the limitations in the current scientific advice, the importance of diverse factors affecting fish stocks as well as the mixed fisheries and selectivity issues.

BSAC Demersal Working Group the topics:

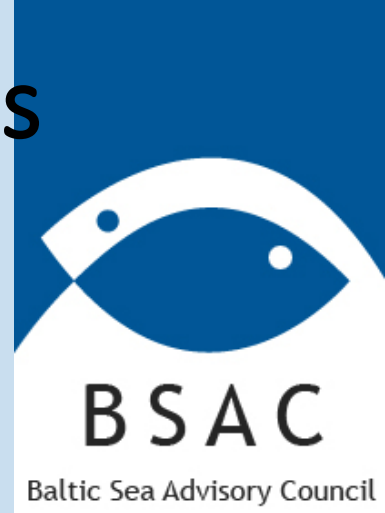


3- TAC and fishing opportunities

Teija Aho

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations

Western Baltic cod (SDs 22-24)



Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions EU TAC 2026
Cod 22-24	0 t (Advice for 2026 and 2027) (compared to the advice for 2025: -100%, bycatch TAC of 24 tonnes)	266 t (by-catch only) (roll-over of 2025 bycatch TAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">0 tonnes <div></div>

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations

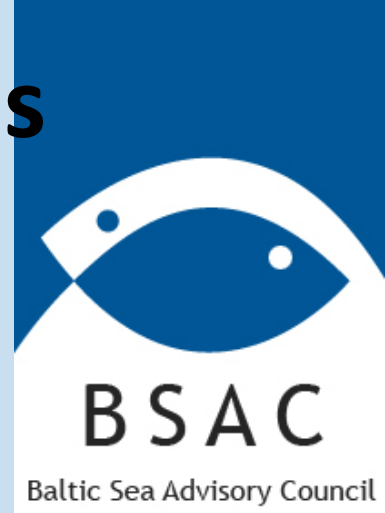


Eastern Baltic cod SD 25-32

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions TAC 2026
Cod SDs 25-32	0 t <i>(roll-over of the advice)</i>	Bycatch TAC 430 t (rollover of 2025 bycatch TAC)	• 0 t

B- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations

Plaice



Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026		BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions TAC 2026
Plaice SDs 22-32	SDs 21-32: 16,533 t (-18% as compared to the advice for previous year)		SDs 22-32: 10.971 t	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• $\leq 4,894$ t

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations



Salmon SDs 22-31

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions TAC 2026
Salmon SDs 22-31	30,000 salmon <u>only</u> in SDs 29N – 31 (-25% as compared to the advice for previous year)	30,000 salmon in the Gulf of Bothnia and the Åland Sea for both commercial and recreational fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No targeted fishery• 5,000 adipose fin-clipped salmon from SD 31, only in close proximity to rivers with compensatory releases

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations



Salmon SD 32 Gulf of Finland

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions TAC 2026
Salmon SD 32	11,800 salmon (rollover of the advice)	11,800 salmon	• ≤ 10,480 reared salmon

BSAC Pelagic Working Group the topics:



3- TAC and fishing opportunities

Lise Laustsen

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations

Sprat:



SAC

a Advisory Council

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026		BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions TAC 2026
Sprat SDs 22-32	176,056 – 230,518 t (+36% as compared to the advice for previous year)	EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea	EU TAC = <u>201,975 t</u> Decision on TAC should be based on the latest knowledge from the spring trawl survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU TAC <158,310 (OIGs)• EU TAC 158,310 t (Swedish POs)• EU TAC 103,405 tonnes (LIFE)

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations

Herring

Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2026	BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2026	BSAC minority positions TAC 2026
Herring Gulf of Riga SD 28.1	23,962 t – 35,643 t (-21% as compared to the advice for previous year)	34,367 t	≤ 27,416 t
Herring SDs 25-29, 32	120,378 t – 157,996 t (+26% as compared to the advice for previous year)	EU TAC = 139,532 t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU TAC < 89,827 t (NGO group) • EU TAC 105,488 t (Swedish POs) • EU TAC 88,707 t (LIFE)

3- TAC and fishing opportunities recommendations

Herring



Stock	ICES advice on fishing opportunities 2025		BSAC recommendation for EU TAC 2025	BSAC minority positions TAC 2025
Herring SDs 30-31	55,869 t – 62,684 t (-16% as compared to the advice for previous year)		55,869 t	≤ 25,560 t
Herring SDs 22-24	0 t (roll-over of the advice)		788 t	0 t

Upcoming BSAC meetings

- November: Demersal and Pelagic Working Groups, Executive Committee- ONLINE
- *Roundtable with the Commissioner before the Council in October, in person - WG Chairs and the ExCom Chairs*
- *5th December, Gdynia : visit to EFCA patrol vessel+ presentation by EFCA on the developments in the fisheries surveillance methods, Hopefully, a presentation by the LV admin – from Ventstpils fishing port , EBM Working Group meeting- in person*
- External meetings
 - *Baltic Ministerial Conference 30th September 2025- BSAC represented by the ExCom Chair*
 - *Implementation Dialogue with Commissioner Kadis 24th November, Brussels (focus on small-scale). BSAC jointly delegated –together with three other ACs*
 - *28th January - ExCom in Stockholm back to back with BALTFISH CEG on 29th January*
 - *MIAC and MIACO meetings with ICES on 22-23 January 2026*



Coming Activity

- **BSAC Discussion of allocation of EMFAF funds.** The BSAC will draft a letter to BALTFISH regarding the allocation of EMFAF funds for the post-2027 period, highlighting Baltic Sea priorities. This was a joint initiative from the Advisory Councils as a response to the Commissions' communication “The road to the next multiannual financial framework”
- **Energy Transition** –updated recommendation from the BSAC, to be discussed and adopted in a dedicated session of the **Energy Transition Focus** Group or ExCom meeting in the autumn 2025.
- **BSAC 20th Anniversary** – The major event would 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 Gothenburg (TBC), the capital of the BALTFISH Presidency.



Thank you for your attention

