

BALTFISH Forum Meeting

8 September 2025, 13:00 – 17:00

Venue: Stockholm, Herkulesgatan 17 and ONLINE

BSAC report

The BSAC was represented by Glenn Douglas, the Vice chair of the ExCom Chair (in person), Teija Aho, Demersal Working Group Chair, Lise Laustsen, Pelagic Working Group Chair and the secretariat (rapporteur - online).

1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by State Secretary Daniel Liljeberg

The representative of the BALTFISH Presidency (Fisheries Director in the Ministry of Rural Affairs) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. **He chaired the meeting.**

In his introductory speech, **the State Secretary, Daniel Liljeberg** stated that the Member States and the European Commission have a long tradition of cooperation in fisheries management and science. They also cooperate with the BSAC and HELCOM. BALTFISH plays an important role in regionalisation. The BSAC provides advice on regional fisheries management. BALTFISH is fully aware that the BSAC needs sufficient time for providing input to joint recommendations. BALTFISH is based on constructive dialogue. He pointed out that the ecosystem condition in the Baltic is unfavourable, with no indication of improvement. Efforts should be undertaken to rebuild the fish stocks for the sake of ecosystem and communities living on them. BALTFISH should have a holistic approach and address other pressure than fisheries, such as seals and cormorants. Sweden is of the view that the number of seals and cormorants needs to be reduced. There is also a need to improve the scientific advice process. The Fisheries Director expressed hope that all stakeholders can work together on the evaluation of CFP and agree on good solutions.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with one AOB related to the establishment of a new Swedish fisheries organisation.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Forum meeting on 25 June 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

4. Work programme of the Swedish BALTFISH Presidency

Presentation and exchange of views

The Chair introduced the draft BALTFISH work programme under the German Presidency and underlined that it is a living document. Among the main items of the work programme the Chair mentioned the TACs and quotas for 2026. The HLG will meet just before the AGRIFISH Council. The Swedish Presidency will continue working on eel, salmon (discussion on a Joint Recommendation on a discard plan for salmon) and harbour porpoise. BALTFISH will continue discussing additional bycatch mitigation measures for

harbour porpoise with the aim of concluding another joint recommendation. With reference to the CFP evaluation, BALTFISH will follow up on the matters relevant for the Baltic fisheries. In spring 2026, BALTFISH will discuss the wind power interactions and follow up the ongoing work on Greater North Sea Basin initiative (GNSBI) and relevant work in ICES and HELCOM. BALTFISH will continue regular meetings with the BSAC for exchanging latest information.

The BSAC ExCom Vice-Chair informed that the BSAC Management Team will meet the Commissioner on 14th October in Brussels to discuss, among others, the TACs for 2026. The BSAC will participate in Control Expert Group meeting on 29 January, held back to back with BSAC ExCom (28th January 2026). The BSAC welcomes the transparency subject in the work programme and the possibility to continue the dialogue and cooperation with BALTFISH and its presidency during regular Virtual Coffee meetings.

The BSAC work programme also mentions further potential work on EMFAF funding and the BSAC will be interested to follow any development on that matter. The BSAC work programme also includes subjects linked to energy transition, attracting young people in the fisheries, management of predators and compensation. Finally, BSAC Vice-Chair also complemented BALTFISH for including an item on windfarm expansion in the Baltic and draws attention to the two BSAC recommendations on the topic, released in 2023 and still relevant.

Representatives of environmental NGOs proposed to include the need to improve the ICES advice framework mentioned by the Secretary of State in his opening speech in the BALTFISH work programme. They underlined that the Member States should support the Commission in changing the advice framework, with the objective to rebuild the Baltic stocks and follow the binding law in the headline advice. They stated that ecosystem-based management is essential to make responsible fisheries management decisions. They looked forward to hearing more on how to eliminate misreporting at the Control Expert Group meeting.

An observer from MSC underlined that lack of proper scientific advice is a huge challenge for Baltic.

Ida Carlen representing Swedish Society for Nature Conservation supported the position on seal management published by Coalition Clean Baltic in May 2024¹. There is a clear lack of evidence on the impact of predators on fish stocks. She urged BALTFISH to finalise the joint recommendation on additional bycatch mitigation measures for harbour porpoise.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE referred to the fact that cod fishery has been closed for the last 7 years. BALTFISH should discuss what is required to turn this situation around. He proposed to discuss a cod recovery plan. With reference to the data collection, he proposed to implement a compulsory eDNA analysis of landings in the ports listed for the exemption on the margin of tolerance.

¹ [CCB position on grey seals](#)

Aimi Hamberg from Fisheries Secretariat welcomed the inclusion of eel in the BALTFISH work programme and called for setting measures to ensure the recovery of this critically endangered species.

The Chair stated that the improvements of the advice framework could be discussed by BALTFISH under the CFP evaluation. It is up to the High Level Group to decide on including this issue in the work programme.

5. Commission proposal on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea 2026
Presentation by the European Commission and exchange of views

A representative of DG Mare presented the Commission's proposal on fishing opportunities in 2026, stock by stock.

Herring 30-31: the Commission proposes a TAC level which should ensure with a high probability that the stock will not fall below the minimum biomass reference level (-16% as compared to the TAC of 2025 – 25,560 t). The Commission also proposes a three-month spawning closure in shallow coastal waters to support successful spawning and the eventual recovery of the stock. The biomass has dropped, and is now at the lowest level.

Glenn Douglas, the BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC recommendations for this stock². The majority of the BSAC supports setting the TAC for this stock in line with the headline scientific advice, at 55,869 t. (MAP range Flower). A group of NGOs and small-scale fishers recommend a 2026 TAC of no more than 25 560 t.

Cathrine Pedersen Schirmer, Fisheries Secretariat welcomed the Commission's proposal for this stock and referred to the joint position of several NGOs³ on Baltic TACs in 2026. They welcomed the extension of the spawning closure and suggested that they could be introduced earlier in the year to protect the spawning aggregations of herring.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE supported the Commission's proposal, underlining the need to increase the biomass of this stock.

Michael Andresen from DFPO underlined that it is not the fishery that keeps this herring stock in bad condition. The stock is negatively impacted by pollution, climate change and predation and therefore cannot be resurrected by lowering the fishing opportunities alone.

For western herring proposed a roll-over of the 2025 TAC, as the stock remains significantly below minimum levels. The Commission proposes removing the exemption for small-scale coastal fisheries and adjusting the TAC to unavoidable by-catches only.

The BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC recommendations for this stock. The BSAC recommends that the 2026 TAC for herring in SDs 22-24 should be set as a rollover of the 2025 TAC of 788 t. A group of NGOs recommend a zero TAC.

Michael Andresen from DFPO underlined that the bycatch quota should not be further reduced, to allow some fishing to continue.

² BSAC recommendations on the fishing opportunities in the Baltic in 2026 [\[Modtagerfelt\]](#)

³ [250617-Joint-NGO-TAC-paper_2025_layout_FINAL.pdf](#)

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE underlined that the derogation for small vessels from last year should also be in force in 2026⁴.

Central herring: The stock has been above the minimum level for two years. ICES forecasts a very positive stock development due to high estimated recruitment but emphasises that the forecast is more uncertain than usual. The Commission therefore proposes a cautious approach and to maintain the current TAC (rollover of 2025 TAC of 83,881 t). In addition, the Commission proposes a three-month spawning closure in shallow coastal waters, again to support successful spawning.

The BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC position. For herring in the central Baltic management area should be 139,532 tonnes, which is in accordance with the MAP FMSY scenario in the ICES advice. The BSAC notes that the SSB of central Baltic herring is the highest observed since 1989 and expected to increase 11.8% following the FMSY scenario in the ICES advice. A group of NGOs recommend setting the 2026 TAC for this stock below 89,827 t. Some fisheries representatives from Sweden propose setting the 2026 TAC in line with the MAP F lower scenario. In this case, the EU TAC would amount to 105,488 t. Some small-scale fisheries representatives⁵⁴ recommend setting the 2026 EU TAC at 88,707 tonnes. This TAC is based on 0.5 FMSY.

Michael Andresen from DFPO emphasised that stated that according to the advice, it is evident that that the TAC for 2026 can be increased. Fishers should be compensated for years of sacrifice with a low TAC. An increase of the TAC will not harm nature. In his view, there should be a better understanding and balance between providing food security and protecting the resources.

Justyna Zajchowska, WWF welcomed the Commission's cautious proposal for this stock. They called for more effective implementation of the Control Regulation to eliminate misreporting.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE welcomed the precautionary approach of the Commission with regard to the 2026 TAC in order to enable further increase of the biomass.

Marek Waniewski, Fish Producers' Organisation Baltyk underlined the need to addressing other pressures on fish stocks, such as underwater noise and pollution, and associated changes in the recruitment and productivity as well as shifts in distribution in fish stocks. In this context, he called for a closer look at the multiple impacts of offshore wind farms on fish stocks.

Teija Aho, SFPO drew attention to the need to incorporate the seal and cormorant induced mortality into the stock assessment models and the need to introduce effective management measures to minimise the impact of predators on the stock.

Krzysztof Stanuch, National Chamber of Fish Producers referred to developments of the herring and sprat stocks, confirmed by ICES advice, as well as latest surveys and asked why the Commission is not proposing higher quota. He asked about the derogation for small-scale vessels fishing with passive gears applied in the case closures to protect

⁴ [pdf](#) By way of derogation (quota only for bycatches), fishing this quota is permitted for Union fishing vessels of less than 12 meters length overall fishing with gillnets, entangling nets, handlines, pound nets or jigging equipment.

sprat spawning in subdivisions 25, 26, 27, 28.2, 29 and 32⁵. He underlined that gillnets are not use to fish sprat.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE answered that small-scale fishers, members of Low Impact Fishers of Europe do not fish sprat with neither passive gears or any other gears.

Cathrine Pedersen Schirmer, Fisheries Secretariat stated that ICES should be asked for management options of different sub-populations of herring in the central part of the Baltic.

A representative of DG MARE replied that the Commission had already asked ICES to include management options for different herring sub-populations in the advice, but if needed, this request could be repeated.

Gulf of Riga herring - the stock is healthy, and the Commission proposes to set the catch limits according to the maximum level advised by ICES.

The BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC position for the 2026 for this stock. The BSAC recommends that the 2026 TAC for Gulf of Riga herring should be set at 30,913 tonnes, following the ICES MSY approach (also equal to MAP F_{MSY}). The corresponding TAC in the Gulf of Riga management area for 2026 would be calculated as 30,913 tonnes - 636 tonnes + 4,090 tonnes = 34,367 tonnes. A group of NGOs and small-scale fishers recommend setting the TAC for herring in the Gulf of Riga at $\leq 27,416$ t (lower F_{MSY} range).

For eastern cod the Commission intends to keep a catch limit for unavoidable by-catches and all the accompanying measures which have already been in place for several years. Since the stock continues to be in a bad condition, the by-catch limit should be adjusted to the actual needs. Despite the measures taken since 2019, when scientists first warned about the poor status of cod, the situation has not improved.

The BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC position for the 2026 for this stock. **The BSAC** recommends to maintain a bycatch quota of 595 t, to give some opportunities for targeting other species. The fisheries representatives are of the opinion that immediate measures for the management of seal and cormorant populations are needed to allow the recovery of cod stock. The minority position consists of a zero TAC for targeted fishing and developing a rebuilding plan.

Michael Andresen from DFPO underlined the bycatch quota from 2025 should be maintained to give some opportunities for targeting other species.

Krzysztof Stanuch, National Chamber of Fish Producers called for more scientific evidence behind setting the spawning closures. He questioned the need for closing the entire SDs 25 and 26, whereas spawning occurs only in parts of these sub-divisions.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE was of the opinion that 2026 TACs for both cod stocks should be a rollover of the 2025 bycatch TACs. He recommended e-DNA analysis to have more accurate control of bycatches. He referred the need to amend the derogation on closures to allow small scale fishers to fish with gillnets in waters below 20 m, to target flatfish which are found in colder water, at lower depths. He requested the Commission to further investigate the problem.

⁵ Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2026 [EUR-Lex - 52025PC0458 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

Representatives of environmental NGOs welcomed the proposed reduction of the bycatch quota.

Western cod - The Commission proposes to adjust the by catch TAC to actual needs (reduction by -87% as compared to the bycatch quota in 2025) and to keep all the accompanying measures. **The representative of DG Mare** stated that new measures to reduce cod by-catches in the flatfish fisheries through alternative fishing gear entered into force earlier this year are expected to reduce the unwanted catches of cod in the flatfish fishery.

The BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC position for the 2026 for this stock. The BSAC recommends that the 2026 TAC for cod in SDs 22-24 should be a rollover of the 2025 bycatch TAC of 266 tonnes (commercial catches). The BSAC considers that a bycatch TAC for cod is needed to enable other fisheries to continue. The BSAC minority positions for TAC: 0 TAC for targeted fishing and develop a rebuilding plan// Bycatch quota only for passive gears.

Plaice

In line with scientific advice, the Commission proposes a slight decrease. New measures to reduce cod by-catches in the flatfish fisheries through alternative fishing gear entered into force earlier this year, which is expected to reduce the unwanted catches of cod in the flatfish fishery.

The BSAC Vice-Chair presented the BSAC position for the 2026 for this stock. The BSAC recommends 10.971 tonnes and this TAC is based on the ICES F_{MSY} catch scenario.

Minority position: protection and recovery of both Baltic cod stocks should be prioritised by setting the plaice TAC well below single-stock headline advice and in no event allowing the fishing level to increase above the F=F2024 scenario ($\leq 4,894$ t). The corresponding catch for the F=F2024 scenario for plaice in SD 22-32 is 798 t + (8524 t - 2216 t) = 7,106 t. // TAC of 7,106 t quota only for passive gears to improve the likelihood of cod recovery.

Krzysztof Stanuch, National Chamber of Fish Producers stated that Polish fishers are not interested in ordering the new gears for flatfish fishery. Practical operability, including serious technical problems of the new gears anticipated by some BSAC fisheries members may be the reason behind this lack of interest.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE was of the view that ICES advice for plaice does not reflect the situation in the water. The available quota will not be exhausted as there is a lot of small plaice, but they do not grow.

Salmon in the Main Basin and in the Gulf of Finland

A representative of DG MARE stated that ICES maintained the principle of its advice for 2026 but decreased the related catch level further because of the probable overestimation of the most important salmon river population in combination with continued uncertainty about the reproduction rates. The Commission therefore proposes adjusting the fishing opportunities and the accompanying measures accordingly: delaying the start of the fishing seasons in some areas and banning recreational fishing for reared salmon, as the latter unavoidably also causes the death of wild salmon. presented a similar COM similar advice as last year.

The BSAC ExCom Vice-Chair presented the BSAC advice. The BSAC recommends to follow the scientific advice and to set a total catch at 30,000 salmon in the Gulf of Bothnia



and the Åland Sea, and a zero catch from the mixed-stock at sea-fisheries in SDs 22-29, in 2026, in accordance with the ICES advice. NGOs recommend a zero catch from the mixed-stock at-sea fisheries in SDs 22 – 30 and a total catch of 5,000 reared salmon in the SD 31, in 2026, taken only from close proximity to rivers with compensatory releases. For the Gulf of Finland, the BSAC recommend a TAC of no more than 11,800 salmon, corresponding to reported commercial landings of no more than 10,480 salmon.

Thomas Johansson, Baltic Salmon Fund appreciated the proposed quota decrease in the Commission's proposal. In view of a decreasing number of returning salmon, a zero catch from the mixed-stock at-sea fisheries in SDs 22 – 30 and a total catch of 5,000 reared salmon in the SD 31, in 2026, taken only from close proximity to rivers with compensatory releases, should be recommended.

A representative of recreational anglers welcomed the proposal to continue with trolling for compensatory released salmon in the Baltic Sea that gives the anglers the possibility to continue engaging in recreational fishing.

Sprat

A representative of DG MARE presented the Commission's proposal. The size of the sprat stock has decreased significantly due to persistently low reproduction rates. It is at its lowest level since 1990 and close to unhealthy levels. ICES estimates record high recruitment in 2024 but emphasises that the forecast is more uncertain than usual. The Commission therefore proposes a cautious approach by maintaining the TAC and the three-month spawning closure introduced for 2025.

The BSAC ExCom Vice-Chair presented the BSAC advice. The BSAC recommends a TAC of 224,616 tonnes, in accordance with the headline advice (F_{MSY} MAP). The corresponding EU TAC for 2026 would be calculated as total TAC 224,616 t minus Russian share of 10.08% = 201,975 t. The OIG recommend that the TAC should be set below the F_{MSY} lower range 158,310 t and to develop a rebuilding plan to ensure rapid recovery above BMSY. Unanimous decision should be based on latest knowledge from spring survey.

Christian Tsangarides from LIFE referred to the fact that despite an increase, the SSB is still at the lowest record level. ICES points to the uncertainty in the forecasts in the advice (underestimated natural mortality) and the fact that recruitment is concentrated in the eastern part of the Baltic. In his view, ICES assumed unrealistic growth rates for sprat, ignoring the basic rule of a density effect.

Representatives of some NGOs welcomed cautious approach in the Commission's proposal because of uncertainties in the forecasts.

Normunds Riekstins, representative of the Latvian administration underlined that according to the Latvian scientists the new year class is above average.

Michael Andresen from DFPO underlined that in view of the good sprat recruitment now confirmed by spring survey results, the need to have a three month closure should be reconsidered.

A representative of DG MARE informed that the Commission the Commission proposes to exclude year-to-year flexibility pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 for stocks with a biomass below MSY B_{trigger}. The biomass of sprat has substantially



decreased over the last years to its lowest level since 1990 and has come close to MSY trigger.

Fisheries representatives from Denmark and Sweden could not agree with excluding year-to-year flexibility as such exclusion will create great problems for the fisheries management. They recalled that year-to-year flexibility had been introduced for all stocks that are subject to the landing obligation.

The Chair concluded that the BALTFISH Presidency had taken good note of the views expressed by the meeting participants. The next steps will be discussed at the HLG meeting. The Presidency aims at reaching a political agreement before the AGRIFISH Council in the end of October.

6. Regionalisation

a) Joint Recommendation Harbour porpoise Information from the Presidency on next steps

The Chair informed that the Swedish Presidency will continue working on the draft recommendation on mitigation measures for harbour porpoise. The BSAC will be consulted.

Justyna Zajchowska, WWF asked whether the joint recommendation will be based on the latest ICES advice on alternative measures⁶ to prevent bycatch of harbour porpoise and whether the draft recommendation will be consulted with the stakeholders. She referred to the data gaps from bycatch of harbour porpoise by small vessels.

Ida Carlen representing Swedish Society for Nature Conservation stated that the information on bycatch is sufficient to introduce mitigation measures for the entire population range without delay. She underlined the urgency to finalise the joint recommendation. She pointed to the fact that new data from SAMBAH II project will be available only in 2-3 years. **Aimi Hamberg, Coalition Clean Baltic** proposed to take account of the HELCOM toolbox on bycatch mitigation as well as work done by ASCOBANS to achieve adequate progress with the joint recommendation.

A representative of the Swedish BALTFISH Presidency underlined that Swedish administration has an ambitious plan to continue the work started by previous Presidencies, also taking into account the latest ICES advice and HELCOM toolbox for mitigation measures.

A representative of DG MARE stated that the Commission is ready to provide support to the Swedish Presidency on the joint recommendation for harbour porpoise. She underlined that there is enough scientific data to take concrete steps forward.

The Chair informed that the stakeholders will be updated on the progress in the work on the joint recommendation on additional bycatch mitigation measures for harbour porpoise.

⁶ ICES advice 2024 - EU request on alternative measures to prevent bycatch of the harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) in the Baltic Sea. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.26868907>

**b) Joint Recommendation Discard plan for salmon
Information from the Presidency on the next steps**

The Chair informed that the discard plan for salmon will expire by end of 2026. BALTFISH will provide a joint recommendation. The BSAC will be consulted.

The BSAC ExCom Vice-Chair stated that salmon is one of the priorities of the BSAC demersal and pelagic working groups. The BSAC working groups look forward to discussing and contributing into the discard plan for salmon.

**c) Implementation of submitted Joint Recommendations
Possible information from the Commission**

A representative of DG MARE presented an update on the implementation of the joint recommendations submitted by BALTFISH. The text of the previous joint recommendation on Sweden on control measures for harbour porpoise is being consulted with the legal services to make sure there are no inconsistencies with the Implementing Regulation of the new Control regulation. BALTFISH Control expert Group will deal with this issue on 10th December. CEG will also discuss the joint recommendation for Baltic Natura 2000 sites in Oresund following the assessment done by STECF in July.

**7. Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) presentation on BSAC:
work priorities
general information on the upcoming meetings**

The Chair stated that BALTFISH value close and transparent cooperation with the BSAC.

The BSAC ExCom Vice-Chair presented the key recommendations⁷, work priorities and general information about the work of the BSAC. In July 2025, the BSAC sent input to the HELCOM draft document on the common understanding of EBFM. In the end of August, the BSAC sent its reply to the Commission's communication on sustainable fishing. He continued with presenting the work priorities of the BSAC for 2025 and 2026.

The BSAC Science Focus Group will discuss how to improve the current advice framework. A Science Focus Group was set up to discuss issues related to scientific advice.

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

As a priority, BSAC would like to continue virtual meetings with BALTFISH Presidency.

The BSAC also wishes to continue the Baltic roundtable meetings and discussion with Commissioner Kadis, prior to the Agri-Fisheries Council will take place on 14th October.

**8. HELCOM
Presentation of HELCOM work of ecosystem-based fisheries management
(EBFM)**

⁷ [Advice & Recommendations - Baltic Sea Advisory Council](#)



Petra Kaaria, HELCOM informed on the work on the draft document on the HELCOM common understanding of EBFM. HELCOM applies EBFM through the 2021 Baltic Action Plan. The document identifies key EBFM objectives and measures across diverse fisheries and environment policies (e.g. BSAP, CFP, MSFD) and highlights issues that require consideration of how the related policies should be reshaped/redirected and their implementation aligned and urgently addressed to implement EBFM in the Baltic Sea. This work will be taken forward by the HELCOM Fish Working Group on 12th November within the wider HELCOM framework, in dialogue with relevant expert and working groups and policy forums.

The key aim of this document is to engage authorities with a competency on fisheries management and fisheries stakeholders, notably the European Union, BALTFISH, BSAC and ICES in a meaningful interaction and exchange of views with the aim to find a common ground for implementing EBFM in the Baltic Sea. BALTFISH members are invited to consider the work in progress, provide views and input and a formal consolidated response to the draft common understanding.

Justyna Zajchowska, WWF **A representative of an environmental NGO** praised HELCOM for this time-consuming and complicated exercise of the common understanding of EBFM. She encourages the fisheries authorities to give input to the draft document.

Michael Andresen from DFPO questioned the HELCOM's mandate to engage in fisheries management and suggested that HELCOM should rather focus more constructively on environmental challenges in the Baltic that still need to be solved

A representative of HELCOM underlined that HELCOM has a policy mandate to have these discussions on EBFM.

Matti Ovaska, BSAC EBM Working Group Chair informed that the BSAC had submitted input to the draft HELCOM document on EBFM in July 2025. The BSAC welcomes the HELCOM process on formulating common understanding of ecosystem-based fisheries management. The BSAC did not formulate a common agreed position but contributed to this work with the input that combined the comments received from the BSAC member organisations.

9. AOB

Teija Aho representing Swedish fishers informed on the establishment of a new fisheries organisation in Sweden – the Swedish Fishermen's Association. This new organisation brings together 3 Swedish fisheries organisations and accounts for 95% of the Swedish landings.

Niki Sporrong, Fisheries Secretariat referred to the CFP evaluation included in the BALTFISH work programme. The NGO community is of the opinion that in view of the current state of the Baltic, no time should be wasted for re-writing the rules. The CFP is still fit for purpose and enables sustainable fisheries management. They call upon the Member States and the Commission to prioritise effective implementation of the CFP rather than a reform.

10. Closure

The Chair thanked everyone for participating.