

Ref: BSAC 2025-26/16

Copenhagen, 31 March 2026

BSAC recommendation concerning in year revisions of fishing quotas.

The BSAC notes that in-year revision of quotas may, in exceptional circumstances, be applied to Baltic fish stocks¹. The BSAC believes in-year revision of stocks could be utilized as a tool in creating a more adaptive fisheries management that contributes to reaching CFP goals.

In-year revision should though only be utilized if applied in the correct circumstances and with appropriate stakeholder engagement. The BSAC notes that individual items of research are continually being produced that contribute to clarity concerning stock status and help in achieving a more robust scientific base for fish stock appraisal. An individual report from a national research institute is insufficient to require an immediate in year revision of quota. The BSAC is therefore of the opinion that an in-year review of a stock should be based upon a deeper compilation and review of existing and new science and surveys such as from an ICES benchmark exercise.

If substantial new published results should arise then the BSAC recommends that the European Commission can invoke an in-year review of the quota and recommend immediate actions that could strengthen the recovery of a fish stock.

The BSAC recommends that in-year revision as an adaptive management tool should only be adopted when a scientific consensus review of existing and new knowledge becomes available that fundamentally changes the stock status.

The BSAC also stresses that an in-year revision shall always include adequate, well-informed, and democratic stakeholder engagement.

¹ **Minority statement:** Lithuanian Association of fishermen and fish processors “Baltijos zvejas” opposes to the use of in-year revisions of TACs. In their opinion, in-year revision is an unnecessary requirement. It would make a sufficiently complex system even more confusing and would open up the possibility of various unnecessary interpretations.