



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C1/AK/ms

Dear Mr Zieliński,

I would like to thank the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) for its recommendation of 31 March 2026 on in-year Total Allowable Catches (TAC) revisions.

It is clear that in-year TAC revisions should remain exceptional and based on a robust peer-reviewed scientific base provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). For the Baltic Sea there has been only one in-year revision in recent years, namely Bothnian herring for 2021 based on an updated ICES advice resulting from an ICES benchmark.

For 2026, the October 2025 Council had set the TAC only until end October 2026 as it was agreed that we would wait for any possible updated advice from ICES. The Council then set the final TAC for Bothnian herring for 2026 in June 2026 in Council Regulation (EU) 2026/1547. This was not an in-year TAC revision, but simply a decision by the Council to set the figure for the final TAC as the decision covering the last two months of 2026 was still open.

DG MARE is looking forward to the continued fruitful cooperation with the BSAC. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Mr Antoine Kopp (antoine.kopp@ec.europa.eu), our policy officer and Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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