

Hélène Clark  
Director, Directorate C  
Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions  
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
Office J-79 02/088  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

By e mail: Helene.Clark@ec.europa.eu, Maja.Kirchner@ec.europa.eu

Your Ref: Areas (2019) 1337240 – 27/2/2019

Ref: BSAC/2018-2019/23

Copenhagen 22nd March 2019

Dear Hélène Clark,

Thank you very much for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 concerning the Eastern Baltic cod, sent to BALTFISH and the BSAC.

We want to start by thanking you for involving the BSAC in your consultation on this very important and serious issue.

You referred to the BSAC theme meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 when the eastern Baltic cod was dealt with in detail. Experts took part to explain what is happening to the eastern cod stock and what factors are influencing it. The factors are multiple.

The BSAC unanimously approved the recommendations produced at the end of the theme meeting. We attach these to this letter. ./.

Rather than rushed decisions and measures, the immediate need is to assemble and consider all the available knowledge. As you mentioned, the ICES Benchmark 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 concluded with similar indications about the eastern cod stock and we await the final report from that meeting.

In addition to that, the ICES advice is awaited, but will not be available before 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

The BSAC is fully committed to facilitating dialogue, and to developing an advice that reflects the views of all the members. At the next available opportunity, we will meet to discuss this, and we look forward to communicating this at the earliest opportunity.

In fact, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the BSAC will be holding its next Executive Committee meeting. In continuation of the theme meeting that we held in January, we will resume our focus on the Baltic cod – both eastern and western. We hope very much that representatives of the Commission will be able to take part and we look forward to sending you the draft agenda as soon as possible.

Kind regards,



Esben Sverdrup-Jensen  
Ex Com chair



Andrzej Bialas  
Ex Com vice chair