

Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft  
Postfach 14 02 70, 53107 Bonn

Herrn

Nils Höglund

Coalition Clean Baltic  
astra Ägatan 53

**Walter Dübner**

*Ministerialrat*

Leiter des Referates 614  
Seefischereimanagement und -kontrolle, IWC

HAUSANSCHRIFT Rochusstraße 1, 53123 Bonn

TEL +49 (0)228 99 529 - 3808

FAX +49 (0)228 99 529 - 4084

E-MAIL 614@bmel.bund.de

DATUM 15.05.2019

## **(Informal translation. See German original)**

### **Precarious situation of the cod stock in the eastern Baltic Sea**

Subject: Your letter of April 11, 20

Dear Mr. Höglund,

Federal minister Julia Klöckner would like to thank you and your colleagues for the joint letter of April 11, 2019 in which you highlight the precarious situation of the cod stock in the eastern Baltic Sea and ask to take emergency measures immediately.

Germany shares these concerns for the eastern cod stock that has been in a bad condition for a long time. Therefore, in October 2018, the Federal Government called for a much higher quota reduction in the negotiations for the determination of fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2019 than proposed by the Commission.

However, as you are aware, this position did not gain a majority.

The report to which you are referring in your letter contains the results of the ICES-Benchmark-Workshop, which was conducted by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in February this year. Under legal aspects, this report is no basis for the emergency measures that you call for. These measures can be taken only based on the ICES-advice for the particular fish stocks in the Baltic Sea that is expected to be published end of May.

In this context, we appreciate the initiative of the Swedish Baltfish-presidency to put this important topic on the agenda of the Baltfish-forum on June 3, 2019 in Stockholm, enabling a deeper discussion with all stakeholders.

Considering the serious situation of the eastern cod, I am confident that the Baltfish High Level Group will be successful in reaching an agreement on adequate measures for the recovery of the stock. I assure you that Germany will strongly support this in the upcoming consultations.

Yours sincerely,

Walter Dübner