

Luxemburg, 10 October 2016

BALTFISH Joint Recommendation on 2017 Fishing Opportunities for the Baltic Sea

This Joint Recommendation has been prepared by the BALTFISH High Level Group. It represents the common position of the Member States from the Baltic Sea region: DE, DK, EE, FI, LV, LT, PL and SE, hereinafter referred to as BALTFISH. In cases where positions differed, the Joint Recommendation contains compromise solutions proposed by the Presidency.

Certain Member States still have parliamentary reservations and their final positions are subject to further confirmation.

This Joint Recommendation is prepared as a balanced package and seeks to take into account the diverse positions and concerns of Member States on specific stocks.

The BALTFISH position on 2017 TAC levels for the relevant fish stocks, including accompanying measures, is as follows:

COD 25-32

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
26 994 t*	41 143 t	24 927 t	- 39 %	30 857 t	- 25 %

* Including Russian share.

Accompanying Measures

As a short term measure for 2017, the previous spatial closures as set out in Regulation (EC) 1098/2007 shall be maintained, including the derogation granted for SD 27 and 28 according to Article 29.2 and 29.4 thereof.

COD 22-24

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
1 588 t ¹⁾	12 720 t	1 588 t ¹⁾	- 88 %	5724 t	- 55 %

1) Excluding recreational catches.

Accompanying Measures

1. A closure period in SD 22-24 shall apply from 1 February to 31 March. The temporal closure in SDs 22-24 shall be combined with a 20 meters depth constraint. Fishing with vessels with a length overall up to 15 m equipped with VMS is permitted (except pair trawling). This provision will have to be assessed.
2. Recreational fishery shall be restricted: A general bag limit of 5 specimen per day and a specific bag limit of 3 specimen per day during the closure period as set out in 1).

HERRING 22-24

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
28 401 t	26 274 t	28 401 t	+ 8 %	28 401 t	+ 8 %

HERRING 28.1 Gulf of Riga

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
27 429 t*	34 915 t	27 429 t	- 21 %	31 121 t	- 11 %

* Including mixing with Central Basin.

HERRING 25-29, 32 excluding Gulf of Riga

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
190 906 t*	177 505 t	191 129 t	+ 8 %	191 129 t	+ 8 %

* Including Russian share and mixing with Gulf of Riga.

HERRING 30-31

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
140 998 t	120 872 t	140 998 t	+ 17 %	140 998 t	+ 17 %

PLAICE 22-32

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
7 862 t*	4 034 t	7 862 t	+ 95 %	7 862 t	+ 95 %

* Combines 24-32 ICES advice and proportion of catches in SD 22+23.

SALMON 22-31 (*specimen*)

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
116 000 *	95 928	105 696	+ 10 %	95 928 t	0 %

* Including Russian share.

SALMON 32 (*specimen*)

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
11 800*	13 106	9 403	- 28 %	10485 t	- 20 %

* Including Russian share.

SPRAT 22-32

ICES Advice	TAC 2016	Commission proposal		Draft BALTFISH proposal	
		TAC 2017	2017/2016	TAC 2017	2017/2016
314 000 t*	202 320 t	282 349 t	+ 40 %	260 993 t	+ 29 %

* Including Russian share.