



Copenhagen, 8th July 2009

Subject: BS RAC Conference "Baltic Sea Fisheries: Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives"

Dear all with an involvement in or an interest in the Baltic fisheries,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the BS RAC Conference on Baltic Sea Fisheries, which the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture and the BS RAC are holding jointly. It will be held from 1st-2nd October 2009 at the Grand Hotel Saltsjöbaden on the outskirts of Stockholm. A draft programme is attached.

The Baltic Sea is one of the main themes for the Swedish Presidency. The aim of this conference is to highlight the Baltic and the BS RAC and to give focus to the environment of the Baltic. A key issue for the Baltic Sea fisheries at this time is the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, and discussions are already underway. This conference also aims to contribute to the debate.

The idea of holding this conference has been welcomed by EU fisheries ministers and the European Commission. Commissioner Joe Borg has accepted the invitation to attend. The Swedish Ministry of Agriculture and the European Economic and Social Committee are supporting this event. There will be interpreting to and from some of the Baltic languages.

We have invited a distinguished list of speakers who will address topics covering management, science, fisheries control and the environment. Steve Karnicki, of the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia, will be moderator. We hope that all ministers around the Baltic will attend. A draft programme is attached.

Please confirm your attendance at the conference to the BSRAC Secretariat **no later than 16th September 2009** to (ai@bsrac.org).

Hotel rooms are reserved at the Grand Hotel Saltsjöbaden, where the conference takes place. The price for a room is 1.695 SEK incl. breakfast (120 rooms are available at this price). Please contact the hotel at phone: +46 8 50617000 or by e-mail: info@grandsaltsjobaden.se with booking code: **226 212 - no later than 16th September 2009**. (The BS RAC Secretariat will be able to reimburse travel expenses (economy class) for 1 night for 1 person from each member organisation of the BS RAC).

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please do not hesitate to contact Sally Clink, Secretary of the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (e-mail: sc@bsrac.org tel: (+45) 33 93 50 00).

Kind regards,



Reine J. Johansson
Chairman of the BS RAC



Ewa Milewska
Vice-chair of the BS RAC