

1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

The Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group [WGBAST] (Chair: A. Romakkaniemi, Finland) will meet in Vilnius, Lithuania, 11 – 20 April 2007 to:

- a) assess and make projections for 2007-2016 of the status of wild stocks of Baltic salmon in terms of smolt production relative to the potential smolt production on a river-by-river basis. The projection shall include an account of the yield in numbers taking into account reared salmon. The catch options shall for 2008 provide information on the catching possibilities for the Main Basin and the Gulf of Bothnia and for the Gulf of Finland. The projections shall be made for various fishing scenarios and will evaluate the probability of reaching 50% and 75% of the potential smolt production in each river;
- b) examine optional biological reference points, especially S_{MSY} , for Baltic salmon stocks;
- c) study the possible reasons behind differences in development of the wild salmon stocks;
- d) evaluate the effect of delayed opening of the coastal fishery in the Gulf of Bothnia on the future wild smolt production;
- e) provide any new information on the state of sea trout stocks and evaluate the need for management actions to safeguard wild sea trout populations;
- f) evaluate sampling protocols and data needs for improving the assessment of Baltic salmon and sea trout stocks.

WGBAST will report for the attention of ACFM by 21 April 2007.

1.2 Participants

Ryszard Bartel	Poland
Janis Birzaks	Latvia
Jonas Dahl	Sweden
Piotr Debowski	Poland
Frank Ivan Hansen	Denmark (part of meeting)
Mart Kangur	Estonia
Lars Karlsson	Sweden (part of meeting)
Vytautas Kesminas	Lithuania
Soile Kulmala	Finland
Polina Levontin	United Kingdom (part of meeting)
Samu Mäntyniemi	Finland
Tapani Pakarinen	Finland
Stig Pedersen	Denmark
Wojciech Pelczarski	Poland
Atso Romakkaniemi (chair)	Finland
Stefan Stridsman	Sweden
Serguei Titov	Russia (part of meeting)

Moreover, Päivi Haapasaari from the University of Oulu (Finland) attended the first three days of the meeting as a scientific observer.