

Annex 4: Proposed WGBAST terms of reference 2008

The **Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group** [WGBAST] (Chair: A. Romakkaniemi, Finland) will meet in Gdynia, Poland, 1 – 10 April 2008 to:

- 1) assess and make projections for 2008-2017 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 2009 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;
- 2) examine optional biological reference points, especially spawner escapement, related to MSY for Baltic salmon stocks;
- 3) study the possible reasons behind differences in development of the wild salmon stocks;
- 4) evaluate management alternatives for coastal fishery in the Gulf of Bothnia;
- 5) provide any new information on the state of sea trout stocks and suggest management actions to safeguard wild sea trout populations;
- 6) evaluate sampling protocols and data needs for improving the assessment of Baltic salmon and sea trout stocks, taking into account changes in the fishery.