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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. Cion doc.:	ST 11735/18 PECHE 320 + ADD 1 - COM (2018) 608 final + Annex
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea

Delegations will find attached written comments by the Polish delegation on the abovementioned proposal.

MINISTRY OF THE
MARITIME ECONOMY
AND INLAND WATERWAYS

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES
DR.RM.621.8.4.2018.FP

Warsaw, 14 September 2018

Comments on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea (11735/18 COM(2018) 608 final).

The European Commission's proposal on fishing quotas for 2019 is well balanced and constitutes a form of compromise between the ICES advice, the opinions of non-governmental organisations and the expectations of the fishing community. Poland has not yet finalised its position. It will, however, work towards a compromise at the BALTFISH forum during the Swedish Presidency.

As regards eastern and western stocks of cod, we consider the proposal to be worth exploring, albeit bearing in mind that the proposed increase in the western cod quota is based on a single strong year-class in 2017, while births for 2016 and 2018 have been historically low, which makes Poland concerned about increasing the quota for 2019. In our opinion, an increase in the cod quota for this stock is possible but, taking account of the precautionary approach, the closure period for western cod should be maintained in the form currently applicable in 2018.

Poland supports the introduction of a closure period for eastern cod and the extension of protected areas. Further analysis should be carried out following receipt of the ICES report assessing the appropriateness of introducing these kinds of protective measures, which will be of assistance in the discussions. Poland expects the ICES report at the end of September 2018.

Head of Directorate

Janusz Wrona

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