

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001870/26
to the Commission
Isabella Lövin (Verts/ALE)
(6 May 2026)**

Subject: ICES advice to support a rebuilding trajectory for Baltic Sea fish stocks

The statement from the October 2025 Agriculture and Fisheries Council was clear — the Council and the Commission wish to take steps to rebuild fish stocks in the Baltic Sea:

‘Conscious of the importance to urgently start the rebuilding trajectory for the fisheries in the Baltic Sea, the Commission, and Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden agree on the need to request the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) to provide in its annual stock-specific catch advice scenarios to rebuild the fish stocks concerned to the required biomass levels within different timeframes. Such advice should take into account the biological characteristics of the stocks and show different catch levels for the respective rebuilding phase.’

The ICES is expected to issue advice on fishing opportunities for 2027 soon. Given that the Council and the Commission have described the situation in the Baltic Sea as urgent:

1. Will the advice on fishing opportunities for 2027 be in line with setting a rebuilding trajectory, and if not, why not?
2. What questions have been sent and, consequently, what discussion has been initiated with ICES?
3. When can we expect new advice that fulfils the request to present rebuilding scenarios?

Submitted: 6.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(8 June 2026)**

1. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) published its catch advice for Baltic Sea stocks on 29 May 2026 ⁽¹⁾. This advice does not contain a rebuilding trajectory.
2. The Commission is working on a special request to be submitted to ICES on the rebuilding trajectory. Given the importance of this special request, the draft will be discussed with the concerned Member States before being sent to ICES.
3. The Commission cannot prejudge if, how and by when ICES would include new elements in its annual catch advice.

⁽¹⁾ https://ices-library.figshare.com/collections/ICES_Advice_2026/8317945?q=:category:baltic.