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NV-03035-14 Fehmarnbelt

Complements to the Comments on the revised referral of fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt from *The Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment (Havsmiljöinstitutet)* (d nr 8/16)

The referral was reviewed in terms of taking into account the comments sent earlier (The Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment (Havsmiljöinstitutet) views on the consultation document on "Consultation under the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment for the fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt" Reference No. 6/14).

Minimizing the impact on the western cod stock in the Baltic.

The Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment stated the importance of minimizing the impact on the western cod stock in the Baltic Sea and argued that the criteria of the Marine Directive (2008/105/EC) must be fulfilled.

The description about possible effects on the cod stock has only minor changes in the revised EIA. The action plans to minimize the impact on cod should be specified in a better way.

- The area is still described as important for cod recruitment (*Plan Approval Document 30.1 Section 7.4.2.*), but the cod habitat loss in *Annex 1 page 362-363* is stated as a minor problem.
- In *Annex 1 section 9.9 page 425*, it is stated that the impact on areas where young cod stands is medium to low during the construction phase. Noise and suspended sediments can negatively impact the cod's migration for spawning, as well as the survival of its locally-occurring developmental stages, which can theoretically affect cod recruitment in the Swedish and Polish waters (Southwestern Baltic Sea).
- The descriptions provide very limited opportunity to evaluate the scientific basis for assessments and thus the credibility assessment.
- *Annex 1 (Section 9. Cross-border effects page 421)* says that cod may be affected in the neighbor waters, but the impact is assessed as not significant.

Yours sincerely,

Kajsa Tönnesson, Director