

Coalition Clean Baltic

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CCB proposals for EC Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Baltic Ministers of Fisheries, in connection with the BS RAC/Swed Min of Agriculture/European Economic and Social Committee conference “Baltic Sea Fisheries: Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives”, 1-2 October 2009, Saltsjöbaden, Sweden

Secure stakeholder participation in Baltic Fisheries Management

New management plans for Baltic Sea fisheries are to be developed for cod, pelagic fisheries and salmon. For certain species, like Baltic salmon, the reproduction phase will take place in inland river waters, which make inland waters management crucial for salmon management. The implementation process of the upcoming Baltic Fisheries Management Plans is crucial.

European Commission and EU Member States must guarantee full stakeholder participation by BS RAC members in the implementation of coming Baltic Fisheries Management Plans in open-sea, territorial and inland waters.

National plans for salmon management (Salmon River Management Plans), including territorial and inland waters, will influence the total stock of Baltic salmon. Such plans will be developed within the new EC Baltic Salmon Management Plan.

Unreported and unrecorded catches is still a problem in Baltic Sea salmon fisheries –Fisheries control must be strengthened

Much of the river, estuary and coastal fisheries of Baltic salmon in some Baltic Sea countries are unreported and unrecorded. Uncontrolled salmon fisheries is many times related to historical property fisheries rights. Such salmon fisheries are also outside the fisheries control/inspection system.

The trend for salmon catches goes from open-sea to coastal and river fisheries. The share for Baltic salmon fisheries in coast and rivers is today 75 %, which highlight the needs for proper reporting and control of such fisheries.

The Ministers declaration from the Conference on Control and compliance, 28-29 March 2007 stated:

-The Baltic Sea Member States undertake their responsibility to strengthen, where appropriate, fish inspection activities; and thoroughly investigate unreported and unrecorded catches in their respective countries and take efficient actions to combat them.

Now it is the time to get full control of the Baltic salmon fisheries, as a prerequisite for a successful implementation of the upcoming EC Baltic Salmon Management Plan.

Baltic Sea Member States should undertake their responsibility to strengthen salmon fisheries control, to get full control of all salmon fisheries, and develop actions for reporting/recording of all river, estuary and coastal fisheries.

Increased ambition for fish stock monitoring needed to achieve Sustainable Fisheries Management – example upcoming “Baltic Salmon management plan”

EC and Member States are now developing a *new Baltic Salmon Management Plan*. One of the key problems to create adequate salmon management is the insufficient monitoring data. Sustainable management of Baltic salmon stocks is not possible if you don't have proper information on the status of each salmon river population. Today less than 10 % of Baltic salmon rivers are properly monitored.

EC and Member States should declare their willingness to increase salmon monitoring to a standard, where defined salmon river population goals can be monitored properly (e.g. number of returning salmon spawners, out-migrating salmon smolts to the Baltic Sea; parr densities). Each salmon river should have monitoring programmes, where incoming salmon spawners and out-migrating smolts will be monitored every year. Without proper salmon monitoring it will not be possible to develop sustainable fishing practices within the upcoming Baltic Salmon Management Plan. Better monitoring would also help the assessment of the conservation status for wild Baltic salmon in accordance with the EC Habitat directive.