

Coalition Clean Baltic

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CCB Proposals for the priority area 9 flagship project “Ensure Sustainable Fishing”

To promote the ecosystem approach to management of the Baltic Sea the sectorised view of fisheries must stop. Sustainable fishing is just one part of managing the Baltic Sea as an ecosystem and the EU strategy for the Baltic encompassing more than fishing presents a very good chance to lay the foundation to change current management perspective.

The flagship project Ensure sustainable fishing lists three major action points:

1. Address the failures of the [Common Fisheries] policy with stakeholders concerned including the development of alternative approaches and exchange of existing best practice in support of the reform.
2. Develop long term management plans for major Baltic fish stocks based on an ecosystem approach in cooperation with communities concerned to reach MSY
3. Progress towards sustainability of fisheries should be supported by adequate research and indicators applying the ecosystem approach

To address the above actions a regional workgroup to develop plans and identify indicators is needed. The region should act to create an alternative management approach and form a stakeholder group that includes government officials to provide a true mandate to decide on recommendations for management plans to be finalized at the EU level. Here is a chance to open up the usually closed discussions preceding decisions in the European Council.

The website of the Swedish presidency of the EU explicitly says that there is a need for special workgroups that meet regularly to implement the actions and CCB believes that these meetings should be open.

The process must be open for all stakeholders including the coastal communities, environmental NGOs, Anglers, boating organizations, fisheries sector (BSRAC) , scientists and marine ecosystem experts.

Results from the work should be joint proposals supported by the countries around the Baltic and to bring before the Council and the EU Parliament.