

Coalition Clean Baltic

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Press-release in connection with the Nordic Council session in Stockholm, 1-3 November 2004

Coalition Clean Baltic has been awarded the 2004 Nordic Council Nature and Environment Prize, presented on the evening of 2nd November at the Stockholm City Hall.

CCBs message to Nordic ministers and parliamentarians:

The Baltic cod stock is threatened with extinction. Nordic and Baltic governments must secure the scientific advice “no cod-fishing east of Bornholm in 2005” to become the outcome of the coming EU negotiations.

Every second cod is killed in Baltic Sea fisheries, every year.

How would we react if an industry discharged toxic substances to the Baltic Sea that killed half of the cod population?

The cod in the North-West Atlantic disappeared 10 years ago because of overfishing. Baltic cod is at risk with existing fisheries policy.

Give the environment sector, instead of the fisheries sector, the responsibility to decide on the biological limits how fisheries resources can be utilized.

One of the most drastic changes of the natural environment in the Baltic Sea Region the last 10 years, is the incredible changes of the fish stocks in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. Cod can nowadays only be found in the southern Baltic Sea in weak populations, not up to the Åland Sea, where it used to be. Baltic cod is at risk with existing fisheries policy.

The massive killing of targeted fish species in fisheries constitute the most important impact on marine ecosystems. No other factors, such as pollution from nutrients and toxics, have had more far reaching impacts.

Every second cod is killed in Baltic Sea fisheries, every year.

How would we react if an industry discharged toxic substances to the Baltic Sea and that killed half of the cod population? Nobody would accept such activities.

The problem is that the fishery sector has neglected the scientific advice repeatedly for many years. Catch quotas have many times been more than 100 % higher than the scientific advice. The responsibility to set the biological limits how fisheries resources can be utilised must be moved to the Environmental sector.

The scientific advice (ICES) for 2005 is “no cod-fishing east of Bornholm”. Baltic cod fishing quota will soon be set within EU. Nordic and Baltic ministers and politicians still have a chance to influence for a sustainable fisheries policy in 2005, and secure that the scientific advice will be followed.

For more information:

- See the CCB report “Sustainable Baltic Sea Fisheries – the way forward”, on www.ccb.se
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