

## The Stockholm Declaration on the Management of the Baltic Sea Fisheries

*We, the Ministers of the Baltic Sea Member States responsible for Fisheries, and the EU-Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries are:*

**Conscious** of the Baltic Sea's unique and sensitive environment and that its fisheries resources depend on a good environmental status;

**Affirming** that an ecosystem approach is needed for the successful management of the fisheries resources in the Baltic Sea;

**Acknowledging** the work of the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council, the BS RAC, in advising the Commission and Member States on the management of the Baltic Sea fisheries, the initiatives it has taken and the important role it will continue to play in the region and in the reformation of the Common Fishery Policy;

**Reiterating** the Copenhagen declaration of 2007 on combating unreported cod fishery in the Baltic Sea, and noting the substantial progress made since its adoption;

**Aware** that processes and initiatives taken within HELCOM and the Baltic Sea Action Plan are of relevance for fisheries in the Baltic Sea;

**Recognising** that a regional approach is fundamental in achieving a long-term sustainable utilisation of the Baltic Sea fisheries resources;

**Stressing** the need for long-term management strategies with the aim of developing and implementing long-term management plans for all commercial species in the Baltic Sea;

**Noting** the importance of supporting the Baltic Sea small-scale fisheries for the longevity of the sector and for the development of viable coastal areas;

**Aware** of our role in raising public awareness with regard to the need for the conservation and sustainable use of Baltic Sea fisheries resources;

**Recognizing** that recreational fishing and fishery tourism are an important part of the utilisation of the Baltic Sea fishery resources and are important for recreation, tourism enterprise and the development of viable coastal areas;

**Calling** for closer cooperation between scientists and the fisheries sector, and noting the necessity in providing accurate, high quality fisheries data to enable sound scientific advice for the management of the Baltic Sea fisheries.

*We, the Ministers of the Baltic Sea Member States responsible for Fisheries, and the EU-Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries*

*Decide to:*

**Cooperate** fully and efficiently to ensure the sustainability of the Baltic Sea fisheries;

**Acknowledge** the objectives of the Baltic Sea Strategy in ensuring sustainable fishing by increased cooperation among member states and Commission and by addressing the issues as outlined in the strategy;

**Take further action** to balance fleet capacity with available fishery resources to ensure the longevity of the Baltic Sea fish stocks;

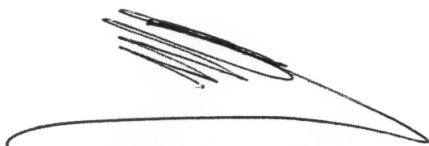
**Improve** fisheries control further by closer collaboration among Baltic Sea Member States and by encouraging a culture of compliance in the fisheries sector;

**Take urgent measures** to protect the strong young year classes of the Baltic Sea cod by improving the selectivity of the fishing gear used in the cod fishery in the Baltic Sea;

**Initiate a close collaboration** between the member states, the scientific community and the industry, to develop new selective fishing gears, in line with the proposal of the BS RAC, with the aim of eliminating discards in the Baltic Sea fisheries;

**Develop a roadmap** in 2010 in the Baltic cod fishery to eradicate discards *inter alia* through the adoption of a discard ban as appropriate.

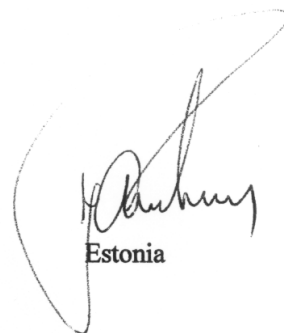
Stockholm, 1 October 2009



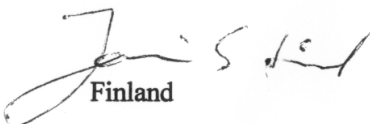
European Commission



Denmark



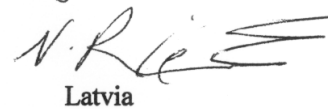
Estonia



Finland



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