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WWF Poland is pleased to invite you to take part in a conference concluding the pilot project on the

Removal of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea

12 December 2011

Hotel Golden Tulip, Towarowa 2, Warsaw

TULIP 2 Room

Old fishing gears or their parts, abandoned or lost accidentally by fishermen are a real threat to the organisms living in the Baltic Sea. The research ordered by Institute for European Environmental Policy has proved that the effectiveness of nets left at sea decreases with time from 20% of the usual commercial net capacity after three months, to 6% after 3 years. Together with total allowable catch quota set at maximum sustainable yield this additional 6% of by-catch can cause an important threat to stability of the fish stock. In addition, organisms entangled in the nets at the sea bottom have a negative impact on the marine environment.

Although the problem of ghost nets is common and measures aimed at addressing this problem have been included in many strategic documents, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, measures aimed at removing the lost fishing gears, remaining at the sea bottom, and thus reducing their negative impact on marine ecosystems are rarely implemented in practice. Ghost nets continue to fish.

In view of the above problem, in 2011, WWF together with fishermen, scientists, divers and other sea users conducted a pilot project financed by Baltic Sea 2020, with a view to work out the methodology for net removal and carry out activities to clean the Polish territorial waters from ghost nets.

We hope that this concluding conference which includes the presentation of the report on the ecological effects of actions aimed at removing ghost nets together with the methodology shall contribute to a better understanding of the threats resulting from lost nets that remain at the sea bottom as well to an exchange of experiences in this context between the Baltic countries.

Below you will find practical information as well as draft agenda of the meeting.

We kindly ask you to **confirm your participation not later than 2 December 2011** at: ppredki@wwf.pl or by phone: +48 608 633 319. Mail in your participation early since the number of participants is limited and we will make registrations on the first-come, first-served basis!

We look forward to seeing you in Warsaw

Ewa Milewska
Project consultant

Piotr Prędko
Project Co-ordinator



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Conference concluding the Pilot Project on the
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AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:15** Welcome address by WWF
- 9:15 – 9:30** Presentation by Conrad Stralka, Baltic Sea 2020
- 9:30 – 10:15** Presentation : **Ghost nets – lost fishing gears, their impact on the marine living resources and possibilities for removing los nets from the sea**
Marek Szulc, Dr Eng., Maritime Academy in Szczecin
- 10:15 – 11:00** Presentation: **Ship wrecks in the Polish Economic Zone**
Benedykt Hac, Marine Institute in Gdańsk
- 11:00 – 11:30** Coffee break
- 11:30 – 12:15** Presentation: **Modern fishing gears**
Krzysztof Stanuch, Baltic Net
- 12:15 – 13:15** Lunch
- 13:15 – 13:45** Presentation: **Goals and assumptions of the Pilot Project on the removal of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea**
Piotr Prędko, Project Co-ordinator, WWF Poland
- 13:45 – 14:15** Presentation: **Engagement as the key to success – active component of the Project**
Ryszard Malik, local co-ordinator
- 14:00 – 14:45** Presentation: **Report on the ecological effects of actions aimed at removing ghost nets**
Stanisław Kasperek, Regional Fisheries Inspectorate in Szczecin
- 14:45 – 15:30** Discussion
- 15:30** End of the meeting



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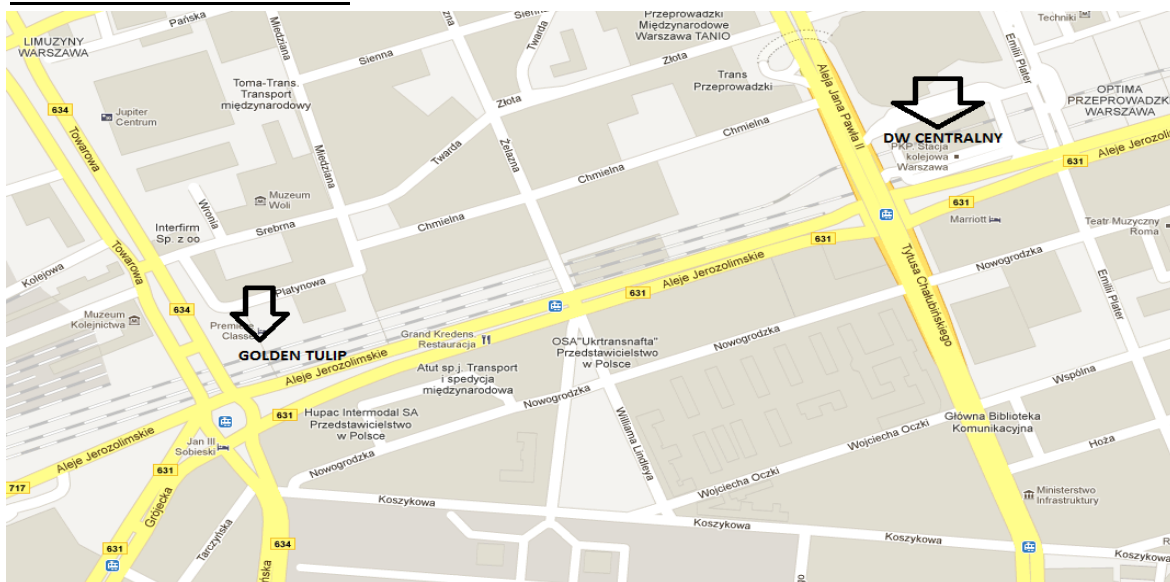
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Practical information:

Premises of the conference:



Hotel Golden Tulip
Warsaw, Towarowa 2,
TULIP 2 Room, first floor.

Access:

1. From the Central Railway Station trams No. 8, 9, 22, 24 or 25 from "Dw. Centralny 08" stop. Get off at Plac Zawiszy stop;
2. From the airport: bus 175 to Plac Zawiszy stop.

Accommodation:

Hotel Golden Tulip is located next to Hotel Campanile, where we have booked 15 single rooms for 1 night (11/12 December 2011). The price of the room is 190 PLN, tax included. In order to benefit from our block booking, please fill in the attached form and send it to the address given in the form or to ppredki@wwf.pl until 6 December 2011 at the latest. Please contact the organizers in case you need to have your hotel costs reimbursed by WWF Poland.

Confirm your participation:

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The conference will take place in Polish. Simultaneous translation in English will be provided.

Should you have any questions, please mail or call Piotr Prędko ppredki@wwf.pl, mobile: +48 608 633 319.