

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Fisheries Secretariat (FISH) we would like to invite you to a Baltic conference to explore opportunities for low impact fisheries in the Baltic Sea.

The conference will take place from lunch-to-lunch 26–27 September, 2012, in Gdynia, Poland. It is organized by FISH in partnership with WWF Sweden.

The main objectives of the conference are to stimulate a broader debate about ways to minimize the environmental impacts of fishing in the Baltic Sea region, provide an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences, and discuss what further actions are needed in order to improve or change gear and practices.

The conference will focus on the following questions:

1. What are the current environmental impacts of fishing in the Baltic Sea?
2. Can we address them by adjusting or shifting to other fishing techniques, gear and technology in the Baltic Sea?
3. How can we encourage and increase low impact alternatives in the Baltic Sea region?

Our aim is to agree on a roadmap to more using low impact fisheries in the Baltic Sea region.

Attached you will find the draft agenda for the conference, together with information about the venue and travel directions. All participants will be invited to a joint dinner in the Gdynia Aquarium in the evening of the 26 September.

Please confirm your participation in the conference **no later than 17 August** to [conference\(at\)fishsec.org](mailto:conference(at)fishsec.org). In your reply, indicate if you would like a vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free option, or if you have any other dietary needs.

Rooms have been reserved at Hotel Gdynia in Gdynia – about 15/20 minutes' walk from the Institute. The price per night for a single room is PLN 240,00 (incl. breakfast). To book a room, please fill in the attached booking form and send an e-mail to rez.gdynia@orbis.pl using the booking code *FISH*. You will need to book your room **no later than 20 August in order to get the reduced room rate**.

We have a limited budget to cover some travel expenses (economy class). Please let us know if you will need help in order to participate. However, bear in mind that you must supply receipts for all costs that are claimed. We encourage you to book flights well in advance of the meeting, so we can limit costs and make it possible for more people to join us.

All the best,

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