

## **BALTIC SEA REGION STRATEGIC NGO MEETING**

A REGIONAL NGO MEETING TO HIGHLIGHT KEY FISHERIES AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT ISSUES  
OVER THE COMING YEARS AND TO STRENGTHEN NGO COLLABORATION.

*The meeting is organised by the Fisheries Secretariat (FISH) and kindly hosted by Sea-U Marint Kunskapscenter*

**Location:** Sea U Marint Kunskapscenter, Malmö, Sweden

**Time:** 7–8 April, 2014

**Purpose of the meeting:** *To discuss how the role and influence of NGOs on a Baltic regional level is maintained or increased in the existing and new governance structures under the new CFP and EU marine legislation. To share an overview of upcoming issues, including the discard ban, the multispecies management plan, implementation of the MSFD, eel management and aquaculture developments. To jointly prioritize among issues and identify gaps in capacity.*

With the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) coming to an end, we know that there will be increased regionalisation in fisheries management in the future and that in practice decisions will shift from the EU level to a regional level. Implementation has already begun in terms of Baltic Member States outlining the details of the upcoming discard ban, as well as discussions on the new multispecies management plan and Baltic salmon management plan, both demanding a much greater and more informed involvement of the stakeholders participating in the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (BS RAC) and BALTFISH, as well as at the national level. At the same time, implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive combining national and EU environmental legislation through regional coordination (HELCOM) is supposed to fully implemented 2015, yet commitment varies considerable among Baltic member states. In 2014, there will also be a review of the EU eel management plan, and we will most likely see the beginning of an extensive expansion of aquaculture activities due to Blue Growth policy and new funding opportunities.

The Baltic NGOs should see this as an opportunity for a stronger influence on the way that our region is governed. These changes also entails that we will face more challenging demands on the regional level than we have in the past emphasising the need to cultivate capacity within the Baltic NGO community on ecosystem based fisheries management.

We hope that the meeting will be a starting point for joint work under the new CFP, and that it will lead to closer collaboration on key issues in the Baltic Sea region and perhaps some joint funding possibilities.

**Expected outcome:**

- Overview of NGO priorities over the coming year/s
- A joint NGO action plan on key issues of implementation
- A strong base for continued regional NGO collaboration
- Ideas for potential joint funding applications

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**DAY 1: Setting the scene**

13:30 Welcome and introductions – *Niki Sporrang, The Fisheries Secretariat*

13:45 Sea-U Marint Kunskapscenter – *Michael Palmgren, Sea-U Marint Kunskapscenter*

14:00 Status of Baltic Sea fish stocks – *Max Cardinal, Department of Aquatic Resources, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (TBC)*

15:00 The new CFP, regionalisation and upcoming challenges – *Niki Sporrang, The Fisheries Secretariat*

**15:30 COFFEE**

16:00 The role of BALTFISH in the regionalisation process in the Baltic Sea region – *Normunds Riekstiens, Director of the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Latvian Ministry (TBC)*

16:30 The Marine Strategy Framework Directive: purpose and content as well as the current state of implementing the BSR – *Ylva Engvall, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (TBC)*

17:00 End of day 1

19:00 Joint dinner

**DAY 2: Way forward for Baltic Sea NGO's – NGO Session**

09:00 Introduction to discussion sessions

09:10 Mapping of capacity and specialisation among the Baltic Sea states i) scientific capacity and orientation including engagement in ICES work ii) representation in regional management bodies (BS (R)AC, BALTFISH, HELCOM and iii) EP party representation – *Annelie Brand, The Fisheries Secretariat*

09:20 Multi-species-management plans for the Baltic Sea - *Gustaf Almquist, The Fisheries Secretariat*

- 09:35 *Discussion:* Regionalisation process – How do we move forward to support implementation of the discard ban and multi-annual plans? How could the knowledge be accessed and deployed?
- 10:10 Where are Baltic Sea MS in their work with implementing the MSFD? Links between MSFD, CFP and BSAP (HELCOM) – *Nils Höglund, Coalition Clean Baltic*
- 10:30 *Discussion:* Marine Strategy Framework Directive – How can we push for better coordination within the BSR? How can the NGO community facilitate in the next stage of programmes of measures?
- 11:00 COFFEE**
- 11:20 Aquaculture: specific considerations for the Baltic Sea – *Nils Höglund, Coalition Clean Baltic*
- 11:40 *Discussions* on aquaculture based on the recommendations presented in previous presentation
- 12:20 LUNCH**
- 13:20 Presentation of conclusions from morning discussions
- 13:40 Way forward – Develop a common road map of upcoming key events in the region? Opportunity to increase NGO collaboration in the BSR? Possibilities for joint funding opportunities!?
- 15:00 COFFEE**
- 15:30 Way forward continued
- 16:45 End of day 2 and close