



Fisheries Council of the European Union
European Commission
Member States around the Baltic
European Parliament
The Commissions Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA)
The International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Date: 29 May 2007

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (BS RAC) endorsement of the conclusions from the Conference on Control and Compliance in the Baltic cod fishery

The BS RAC conference on Control and Compliance in the Baltic cod fishery was held 28th -29th March 2007 in Copenhagen with participation of Fisheries Ministers from around the Baltic, the European Commission, the Community Fisheries Control Agency, representatives from all sectors of the fishing industry, environmental organisations and other RAC members and observers etc.

The Conference agreed that unreported catches of Baltic Sea cod are the main problem associated with non-compliance and that unreported landings create a significant threat to the sustainability of the cod stocks and the Baltic Sea Ecosystem (see enclosed conclusions).

The Conference called upon the national authorities of EU Member States in the Baltic Sea Region to commit and undertake actions that will contribute to a culture of compliance.

The conference also identified how various stakeholders involved in the Baltic Sea cod fisheries might influence or take action that reduces the problem of unreported landings and illegal fisheries. A list of actions was produced, although there was not consensus on all points.

The Executive Committee of the BS RAC has at its meeting 22nd May 2007 by consensus fully endorsed the conclusions from the conference, and is looking forward to working with the Commission and Member States in contributing to a culture of compliance in the future.

The BS RAC will use the conclusions as the basis of its commitment to work for a more sustainable cod fishery in the Baltic. As a first step, the RAC will look into the experiences and planned initiatives on traceability systems in the Member States around the Baltic. Also, the RAC will give priority to a closer cooperation with the science to improve and enhance the fishing data and the confidence in the stock assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Reine J. Johansson
Chairman of the BS RAC