

## **Council adopts a position on Baltic plan that fails to sustainably manage Baltic fisheries**

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Fisheries Ministers adopted today a general approach to the Baltic Multiannual Plan which fails to implement the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. The position from the council does not end overfishing, allowing catch limits to be set way above scientific recommendations, and it also does not set as a goal to minimise the impact of the fisheries on the wider environment.

“From today’s debate it is clear that many Member States want to continue business as usual, ignore the depressing reality of the state of EU seas, and not follow scientific advice. Some countries, such as Sweden, did try to bring the EU’s marine environmental obligations into the plan, but were inexcusably disregarded” says Bruna Campos, EU Marine and Fisheries Policy Officer.

Today’s public debate focused tremendously on the council’s legal standing in setting fishing mortality values and very few Ministers pointed out that the proposed general approach from the Latvian Presidency did not adhere to the CFP.

The council’s position gives a very wide range of fishing mortality values for Member States to pick, using an upper value that scientific recommendations states is not only not applicable for long term planning of mixed fisheries, but also needs harvest control rules – something not mentioned by the council. Furthermore, setting a fishing mortality range that goes above the scientific recommended value is in itself against the principles of the CFP.

Furthermore, although the council position does foresee technical measures to be used to minimise the impact of the fisheries, it does not clearly specify that is an obligation of the plan, leaving the objectives of the plan unclear.

We now look to the plenary vote on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April by the European Parliament to ensure that at least they will lay down the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy in their mandate for trialogue negotiations. It is in the hands of the European Parliament to make sure that we end overfishing and the incidental catches of seabirds and marine mammals in the Baltic.

### **ENDS**

BirdLife Europe is a Partnership of nature conservation organisations in 47 countries, including all EU Member States, and a leader in bird conservation. Through its unique local to global approach BirdLife Europe delivers high impact and long term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

### **CONTACT**

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