

**“Today is a good day for our seas. We must thank the vote in the Fisheries Committee for that”**

**Brussels, 31 March 2015**

While the European Commission failed to uphold the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in its proposed management plan for the Baltic Sea, with today’s vote the Fisheries Committee in the European Parliament has taken a step forward. The decision ensures that the management of the fisheries in the Baltic will be implemented through an ecosystem based approach, minimising the impacts of the fisheries on seabirds. Today’s decision also aims at reaching healthy fish stocks above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield (i.e. above BMSY) and sets standards for the council to set catch limits below their exploitation rates (i.e. below FMSY).

According to **Bruna Campos, EU Marine and Fisheries Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe**: *"We are pleased to see that the members in the Fisheries Committee are committed to implementing the CFP. We hope that the plenary will follow in the same direction. The outcome might have been improved further had the rapporteur, Jaroslaw Walesa, allowed to vote on an S&D proposal on seabirds bycatch. Unfortunately, that was not the case".*

Now the European Parliament needs to give its approval on the 28th of April for MEP Walesa to enter into negotiations with the Council.

**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.

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