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23/10/2026, Brussels - Belgium

Fishing opportunities for 2027 in the Baltic Sea: the need to deliver a lasting recovery of fish populations

Dear representatives of the Council of the European Union,

Dear Ministers,

Dear Commissioner,

In October 2025¹, the European Commission and the eight Baltic EU Member States jointly recognised the **urgent need to rebuild Baltic Sea fish populations**. In May 2026, the European Parliament reinforced that call in its resolution 2024/2127 (INI)².

The upcoming agreement on the 2027 fishing opportunities is now an opportunity to translate these shared commitments into action.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urge the Council **to adopt fishing opportunities for 2027, based upon the best available scientific advice and supporting the recovery of depleted Baltic Sea fish populations**.

The Baltic Sea is one of Europe's most vulnerable marine regions. Its fish populations face cumulative pressures from climate change, eutrophication, pollution, habitat degradation and disrupted food webs. Despite substantial efforts, several important Baltic fish stocks remain depleted, while important stocks have not fully recovered above precautionary level Btrigger.

Parliament's resolution provides a clear political mandate: move from managing decline to rebuilding healthy fish stocks; base decisions on the best available science; balance environmental, economic and social objectives; and address the full range of pressures on the Baltic ecosystem. It offers the Council and the Commission a common basis for action.

The objective of this year's Council agreement on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea must be clear: to place fish populations on a credible path towards recovery through precautionary and ecosystem-based management.

Healthy fish stocks support functioning ecosystems, European food supply, viable fishing sectors and resilient coastal communities. They also have considerable societal value. Recreational fisheries in the Baltic region engage millions of citizens, generate around EUR 1.5 billion in economic activity and support more than 14,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Rebuilding stocks is therefore both an ecological necessity and an investment in livelihoods.

Recovery must be measured by more than total biomass. As Parliament has recognised, healthy fish populations require age and size distributions indicative of healthy and resilient stocks.

For many species, older and larger fish can make a disproportionate contribution to reproduction, while a broad range of age classes can strengthen resilience to environmental change and weak recruitment.

Building on Parliament's position, we urge the Council to **ensure that the final agreement is based on the best scientific advice available and fully reflects the precautionary and**

¹ Council of the European Union (2025), [Draft minutes of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#), 27-28 October 2025

² [Texts adopted - The multiannual plan for the Baltic Sea and ways forward - Thursday, 21 May 2026](#)

ecosystem-based approaches. Council's decision on the 2027 Baltic fishing opportunities should give recovering fish stocks time to strengthen before considering substantial increases in catch limits. It should restore healthy age and size structures by protecting juvenile fish and, where appropriate, large productive individuals.

We therefore call on the Council to translate the October 2025 commitment and Parliament resolution into precautionary TAC decisions that safeguard recent cautious progress, provide depleted stocks with a credible path towards recovery and secure a sustainable future for Baltic fisheries and coastal communities.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the European Parliament:

Karin Karlsbro, Renew, Sweden

Jessica Polfjärd, EPP, Sweden

Maria Grapini, S&D, Romania

Majdouline Sbaï, Greens/EFA, France

Li Andersson, The Left, Finland

Merja Kyllönen, The Left, Finland

Janusz Lewandowski, ECR, Poland

Sirpa Pietikäinen, EPP, Finland

Emma Ytterell, Renew, Sweden

Manuela Ripa, EPP, Germany

Tomas Tobé, EPP, Sweden

Alice Teodorescu Măwe, EPP, Sweden

Arba Kokalari, EPP, Sweden

Hanna Gedin, The Left, Sweden

Jonas Sjöstedt, The Left, Sweden

Irena Joveva, Renew, Slovenia

Katri Kulmuni, Renew, Finland

Jussi Saramo, The Left, Finland