



THE BALTIC SEA CALL TO ACTION – NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Summary

- **We have published an opinion article that has received a response from Sweden’s Minister for Climate and the Environment.**
- **We are definitely not satisfied with the quota decision for 2026 and have therefore launched new activities ahead of next year’s negotiations.**
 - **We are expanding our activities in Finland, Denmark and Germany.**
 - **We have now translated more of our opinion articles on our website into English.**
- **The European Council of Ministers questions the EU’s 5% emergency rule.**
- **Share your views on a revised version of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.**
- **A new force joins the Baltic Sea Call to Action working group.**

Opinion Article on Stopping Large-Scale Trawling Within 12 Nautical Miles

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are working to stop large-scale industrial trawling of herring and sprat within 12 nautical miles along the entire Swedish Baltic Sea coast. As part of this effort, in January we published an [opinion article](#) in Aftonbladet, arguing for an immediate ban on large-scale trawling within 12 nautical miles along the entire Baltic Sea coast. We questioned why the government had not already implemented such a ban.

Encouragingly, we received a [reply](#) from Romina Pourmokhtari, stating that the government has begun this work. Unfortunately, we were not given any indication of when the trawling limit will be implemented, which we also pointed out in our [response](#). We now hope to receive positive news from the Government Offices shortly, confirming that a decision to introduce a 12-nautical-mile trawling limit has been made and will be implemented as soon as possible. To be continued in the next newsletter.

Building Public Support in Other Baltic Sea States

We are currently working actively to find and establish contacts in other Baltic Sea countries. We have held discussions with various relevant international organizations and have also received valuable advice from several of our Members of the European Parliament (Isabella Lövin, Sofie Eriksson and Emma Wiesner and their teams) on how to proceed in different Baltic Sea countries.

Following these meetings, we have decided to prioritize Finland, Germany and Denmark. However, should opportunities arise, we do not rule out other Baltic Sea countries. The work is still at an early stage, and we cannot yet show any concrete results, but we will return to this in future Newsletters.

The EU's Emergency Brake Under Attack

For the second time, the European Council of Ministers is questioning the EU's emergency brake designed to protect fish stocks from collapse. Sweden's Minister for Rural Affairs, Peter Kullgren, attempts in an [article](#) in Dagens Nyheter to explain why he wants the rule to be clarified.

The rule in question is the so-called 5% rule, which is being challenged on the grounds that it harms the economy. The rule means that catch quotas should not be set in such a way that there is more than a 5% risk of stock collapse. Unfortunately, this rule has often been violated when quotas have been set for various fish stocks in the Baltic Sea, not least for herring and sprat.

Two years ago, Coalition Clean Baltic sued the European Commission for failing to take the 5% rule into account when setting quotas for herring and sprat. The EU Court of Justice is expected to deliver its judgment in spring 2026.

Share Your Views on a Revised Version of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive

In the January Newsletter, we wrote about the opportunity to submit comments on a revised version of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. If you would like to do so but find it difficult to know what position to take, you are welcome to contact the Baltic Sea Call To Action and read what we have submitted to the EU.

However, do not simply submit a copy of our comments. Instead, use them as inspiration for your own submission. If you just copy our input, the EU will disregard your submission, as they only accept unique contributions.

Once your submission is ready, go to [Marine environment protection revision of EU rules](#) and follow the instructions there. You may submit your comments in Swedish. Deadline: 9 March 2026.

English Versions of Several Articles Now Available on Our Website

As part of our efforts to make our website more accessible internationally, the site is now available in English, Finnish, Polish, Danish and German. We have also translated three of our published articles into English, with more on the way.

All of this is intended to make our website more accessible in other Baltic Sea countries. Please feel free to share it with friends and other contacts around the Baltic Sea. They can also support us. Our hope is that this will help us find individuals who may be interested in starting similar grassroots movements in their own countries.

New Member of the Baltic Sea Call to Action Working Group

We are very pleased that Monica Wikström has decided to work with us. So much is happening with herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea, and the ambitions of the Baltic Sea Call to Action continue to grow. We are therefore delighted that Monica has reached out and wants to contribute. Most welcome.

Contributions to the Work of the Baltic Sea Call to Action

We thank you all for your contributions to our work. Your generous donations make it easier for us to carry out our activities, particularly updates to the email system we use to distribute our newsletters.

On our website <https://www.ostersjouppropet.se/Svenska/st-d-oss-genom-bidrag> you can make a voluntary contribution via Swish. We finance the work of the movement with our own

funds but are grateful for voluntary contributions. Thank you in advance for all donations, large and small.

We Continue to Grow!

When we include the number of members and employees in the supporting associations, other organizations, companies and individual private supporters, we now represent **a total of more than 175,700 people**, of whom **nearly 2,200 are private individuals**.

During the month, **9 new associations and companies** have joined in support of the movement, bringing the total to **148**. The new supporters are:

- Fiskemagasinet.se
- Fiskenätet - Nätverk för att rädda Östersjön från ekologisk död
- Södergran Consulting AB
- Swedish Outdoor Adventures AB
- Mats Larsson Enskild firma
- Öregrunds Omställningsakademi
- Naturskyddsföreningens länsförbund i Västernorrland
- Naturskyddsföreningen Lidingö
- Naturskyddsföreningen Gävleborg

Please continue to spread the Baltic Sea Uprising among friends, acquaintances and everywhere you can. The more supporting members we represent, the greater weight we carry in our meetings with decision-makers at all levels.

The Baltic Sea Contract

We cooperate with the Baltic Sea Contract. Some of you may already have signed the contract with the Baltic Sea Contract. If you have not yet done so, please visit:

<https://www.ostersjokontraktet.se/>

Recommended Reading

Here are some interesting links for those who want to learn more about herring/sprat fishing in the Baltic Sea. *To limit the length of the newsletter, several interesting earlier links have been removed. If you would like to see them, please refer to our previous newsletters under "News" on our website www.ostersjouppropet.se.*

- [EU: Ecosystem Reference Points.](#)
- [Expertrapport till PECH](#)
- [Baltic Waters: Vägen framåt 2026](#)
- [Baltic Waters: Det småskaliga fisket ger mervärden](#)
- [Östersjöcentrum: Överlåtbara fiskerättigheter bör förändras i grunden](#)
- [Östersjöcentrum: Studie av historiskt fiske avslöjar ovälkommen sanning](#)

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The Baltic Sea Call to Action Working Group