



BALTIC SEA APPEAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Summary

- **We continue to advocate for Sweden to independently introduce a 12-nautical-mile limit against large-scale industrial trawling along our entire east coast.**
 - **As we are not at all satisfied with the quota decision for 2026, we are planning new activities ahead of next year's negotiations.**
 - **We will expand our activities in the other EU-connected Baltic Sea countries.**
 - **Our website has been translated into English, Finnish, Danish, German, and Polish.**
 - **We will support alternatives to the ITQ system that promotes the growth of fish stocks in the Baltic Sea and ensure that the fish caught is used for human consumption and benefits our coastal communities.**
 - **Read about Finland's official view on herring fishing in the Bothnian Bay.**
 - **You now have the opportunity to give your views on a revised version of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive.**
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Our Goals for 2026

- **Stop large-scale industrial trawling of herring and sprat within 12 nautical miles along the entire Swedish Baltic Sea coast.** We started this work in 2025 but are now increasing our focus. Small-scale fishing and fishing for human consumption within the limit should still be allowed, but large industrial trawling, where the catch is converted into fishmeal and -oil, should be banned within the limit. Our proposal is fully in line with the [proposition för havsmiljön \(Prop. 2023/24:156\)](#) presented by the government in June 2024. Since Sweden can do this independently without EU approval and the proposal has already been investigated by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (HaV), the ban should be implemented quickly **if only the political will exists.**
- **Create public opinion in other Baltic Sea states to limit overfishing of herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea.** Without support from more Baltic Sea countries, there will be no reduction in fishing quotas. We started this work a bit in 2026 and are now intensifying our efforts. We are currently investigating which countries to prioritize and how to create public opinion in those countries, as things work differently in different countries. We will provide more information when we know more. Please contact us if you have tips.
- **Advocate for reduced quotas in the October quota negotiations.** Just as we did in 2025, we will push in various ways for the herring and sprat quotas to be reduced so that stocks can recover, and for quotas to be allocated in a way that favors fishing for human consumption and disadvantages industrial trawling, which mostly goes to fish feed.

- **ITQ (Individual Transferable Quotas).** The current ITQ system has favored large-scale industrial fishing, mainly for fishmeal, at the expense of more local fishing for human consumption. The system will be renegotiated in 2029, and work is already underway on how it should be designed. This is a comprehensive but particularly important task that can have a major impact on how fishing in the Baltic Sea will be for many years to come. The Baltic Sea Appeal believes that the ITQ system must be removed or fundamentally changed to prevent herring and sprat from disappearing and to ensure that what remains is not converted into fishmeal. **We will support alternatives to the ITQ system that promotes the growth of fish stocks in the Baltic Sea and ensure that the fish caught is used for human consumption and benefits our coastal communities.** However, we are unlikely to make our own proposals, as the issue is too complex for us.

Finland's Perspective on Herring Fishing in the Bothnian Bay

In a post at the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), Finland's Fisheries Council member Risto Lampinen described [Finland's perspective on herring fishing](#) in the Bothnian Bay. It is a very informative read that we recommend to anyone interested in better understanding how Finnish fisheries authorities think and act regarding herring fishing. Among other things, it appears that communication between Swedish and Finnish authorities and governments needs improvement. We will certainly return to this topic once we have analyzed and discussed Finland's perspective further.

Give Your Views on a Revised Version of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The purpose of the 2008 Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to achieve good environmental status in all EU marine waters using an ecosystem-based approach, meaning the seas are clean, healthy, and productive. However, a recent evaluation showed that the directive did not achieve its main goal of good environmental status in all EU marine waters by 2020. The evaluation provides several suggestions on how to improve the implementation of the directive, and the EU now invites the public and organizations to give their views on these proposals. The Baltic Sea Appeal now encourages everyone who wishes to participate to visit: [Marine environment protection revision of EU rules](#) and give their views. There is an option to choose language of the texts. The deadline is March 9, 2026.

Website – English Versions of Articles Coming

In addition to Swedish, our website is now also available in English, Finnish, Polish, Danish, and German. This is to make our website more accessible in other Baltic Sea states. Please share it with your friends and contacts around the Baltic Sea. They can also support us.

To further improve accessibility, we are now also translating our published articles into English. They will be available very soon.

Contributions to the Baltic Sea Appeal's Work

We thank you for all your contributions to our work. Your generous support makes it easier for us to carry out our work, especially updates and translations of the website into other languages and the email function we use to send out our newsletters.

You can make a voluntary contribution via Swish on our website:

<https://www.ostersjouppropet.se/Svenska/st-d-oss-genom-bidrag> . We fund our work in the appeal with our own money but are grateful for voluntary contributions. Thank you in advance for all contributions, large and small.

We Continue to Grow!

Including the number of members and employees in the supporting associations, other organizations, companies, and private individuals, we are now **over 165,000** in total, of which **just over 2,000 are private individuals**.

This month, we have gained **3 new associations and companies** supporting the appeal, bringing the total to **139**. The new ones are:

- Ninas vovvar AB
- Grankullavik Fritidsby
- Purvey it AB

Please continue to spread our Baltic Sea Appeal among friends, acquaintances, and everywhere! The more supporting members we represent, the more weight we have in our meetings with decision-makers at various levels.

Baltic Sea Contract

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

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

Recommended Links

Here are some interesting links for those who want to know more about herring/sprat fishing in the Baltic Sea. To keep the newsletter short, several interesting previous links have been removed. If you want to see them, check our previous newsletters under "Aktuellt" on our website www.ostersjouppropet.se.

- [Baltic Waters: Gemensamt brev till EU:s fiskekommissionär om brister i ICES rådgivning.](#)
- [Baltic Waters: Hur överlever sillen i Östersjöns bräckta vatten?](#)
- [Deep Sea Reporter: Det finns inget fiske utan fisk. Punkt.](#)

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