



BALTIC SEA APPEAL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

Summary

- **Do you have contacts in other Baltic Sea states? Let us know.**
 - **The fishing quotas in the Baltic Sea have been decided.**
 - **Move out the boundary for industrial trawling as soon as possible!**
 - **Coastal article in several local newspapers along the Baltic Sea coast.**
 - **The website is now available in several languages.**
 - **Thank you for all your contributions to our work.**
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Spread the Word

Feel free to share parts of the newsletter that may be of interest to your families and friends, as well as to members of the companies, organizations, and associations you belong to. Please link this newsletter and our website to your own newsletters and websites. If we together can raise awareness and interest in the Baltic Sea and the vulnerable situation of the herring, we can also help improve it.

Fishing Quotas in the Baltic Sea Have Been Decided

Once again, this year's quota decision from the Council of Ministers makes for grim reading. The quota for herring in the Central Baltic Sea has this time increased by 15%. In the Bothnian Bay, the quota has been reduced by 40%, but we must remember that last year's quota was far too high. Additionally, this is a partial-year quota, which means that with new scientific advice and a new Council decision, the quota can be increased further in October! So, the reduction may be much less than it first appears. It is probably Finland that hopes to take advantage of this opportunity to catch more herring.

It may also be interesting to compare the quotas with those proposed by the EU Commission, which took into account the so-called 5% rule requiring fishing pressure to decrease if the risk of stock collapse exceeds five percent. As you can see from the table, all quotas except the one in the Gulf of Riga are above what the EU Commission proposed. This table is also included in the article we published in [Dagens Nyheter](#).

	Kommissionens råd	Ministrarnas beslut	Skillnad ton	Skillnad %
Strömming i Bottenhavet	25 560	39 108*	+13548	+53%
Strömming i Centrala Östersjön	83 881	96 463	+12 582	+15%
Strömming i Rigabukten	34 367	34 367	0	0%
Strömming i Västra Östersjön	394**	788**	+394	+100%
Torsk i Östra Östersjön	159**	430**	+271	+170%
Torsk i Västra Östersjön	42**	266**	+224	+533%
Skarpsill i Östersjön	139 500	201 975	+62 475	+45%

However, we are very pleased that Peter Kullgren this year could no longer accept the negotiation result and said No. This is the first time Sweden has reserved itself against a quota decision and is clearly a positive change. Sweden also made its own statement, urging the EU Commission to request ecosystem-based advice from ICES. Unfortunately, no other countries supported this call.

Sweden made another statement, together with the EU Commission and the other Baltic Sea states, urging ICES to include advice that leads to the rebuilding of fish populations in its recommendations. A very good initiative. We can only hope it is implemented.

What Can Sweden Do Now?

It is clear that Sweden stands quite alone in its more restrictive stance on herring fishing in the Baltic Sea. But besides working in various ways to get the other Baltic Sea countries to change their views on fishing, there are still some things Sweden can do itself. For example:

- **Move the boundary for industrial trawling along the entire Baltic Sea coast.** The simplest and fastest way to improve the situation for herring in the Baltic Sea is to introduce a ban on industrial trawling within 12 nautical miles along the entire Swedish Baltic Sea coast, including Öland and Gotland. This is exactly in line with the **proposition for the marine environment (Prop. 2023/24:156)** presented by the government in June 2024. This is something Sweden can do on its own without approval from the EU and has already been investigated by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management. We have described this possibility in a recent article in [Dagens Nyheter](#), where we explained the opportunity in more detail. Moving the boundary for industrial trawlers is something we will work hard to achieve.

Coastal Article Published in Several Local Newspapers

If you subscribe to a local newspaper, you may have seen it. In recent weeks, we have submitted an article as an op-ed or debate piece in 11 local newspapers along the Baltic Sea coast. It is essentially [this article](#), but may have some minor local adaptations. The newspapers that published the article are Norrländska Socialdemokraten, Norran, Västerbottens Kuriren, Örnsköldsviks Allehanda, Sundsvalls Tidning, Hudiksvalls Tidning, Gefle Dagblad, Hela Gotland, Oskarshamns Nytt, Sydöstran, and Ystads Allehanda.

Meeting with BASRAN

On November 2, we presented the Baltic Sea Appeal at a meeting together with the Baltic Sea Contract for BASRAN. BASRAN consists of Rotary clubs around the Baltic Sea with a special commitment to the Baltic Sea. We hope that through BASRAN we can connect with engaged people around the Baltic Sea.

The people on Åland Are Not Happy with Finland's Position on the Quota Decision

Three Åland parliament members have raised the question in an op-ed about whether Åland should choose a different line ahead of next year's negotiations on fishing quotas in the Baltic Sea. You can [read the op-ed here](#). They feel they are not being heard on an issue that affects them so strongly. Perhaps a debate on the issue is starting in Finland?

Website Now Available in Several Languages

Our website is now not only in Swedish and English. In the past month, it is also made available in Finnish, Polish, and Danish, and very soon it will be in German as well. Now most people around the Baltic Sea can read about what we are doing in their own language. Please share it with your friends and other contacts around the Baltic Sea. They can also support us.

Contributions to the Baltic Sea Appeal's Work

We thank you for all your contributions to our work. Your generous donations make 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.

On our <https://www.ostersjouppropet.se/Svenska/st-d-oss-genom-bidrag> you can Swish a voluntary contribution. 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.

Meeting with the Network Save Coastal Fishing

At the beginning of November, we had a meeting with Susanne Ravani, project manager for the Network Save Coastal Fishing. It is Kullens Fishermen's Association that in this project, funded by Leader, wants to build a network of small-scale coastal professional and subsistence fishermen along Sweden's coast. The Baltic Sea Appeal thinks this is a good initiative and completely in line with what we also want. We wish them good luck and will stay in touch.

Something New Is Still Coming

Yes, we promised it in previous newsletters, but now it is actually coming very soon. We will present something completely new in an Extra Newsletter. We don't want to say more now but keep your eyes open. When it comes, we would like you to help us spread it on your networks.

We Continue to Grow!

When we include the number of members and employees in the supporting associations, other organizations, companies, and individual private persons, we are **a total of just over 164,600**, of which **almost 2,000 are private individuals**.

During the month, we have gained **4 new associations and companies** supporting the appeal, now totaling **132**. The new ones are:

- **Actea Consulting AB**
- **Ivar Lundh & Co**
- **Jäderberg & Co**
- **AL4U**

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

Baltic Sea Contract

Collaboration with the Baltic Sea Contract continues. They work with the entire situation of the Baltic Sea and also the vulnerable situation of the herring. Some of you have probably signed the

Contract with the Baltic Sea Contract. If you haven't already, please visit:

<http://www.ostersjokontraktet.se>

Recommended Links

Here are some interesting links for those who want to know more about herring fishing in the Baltic Sea. *To limit the length of the newsletter, several interesting previous links have been removed. If you want to see them, go to our previous newsletters, which you can find under News on our website www.ostersjouppropet.se.*

- **Baltic Waters: A Shift in Swedish Fisheries Policy**
- **Baltic Sea Centre: Sweden Voted No to Excessive Herring Quotas**
- **Åland Parliament Members React to Finland's Actions in Quota Negotiations**
- **Baltic Waters: Important Signals from the EU Commission on Fishing Quotas 2026**
- **Baltic Sea Centre: EU Commission's Proposal – A Step in the Right Direction**

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