

Press release

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State and direction of fisheries research in the Baltic to be discussed at Vilnius workshop

Eurofish is organising a workshop on “Baltic Sea fisheries research results” in Vilnius, Lithuania on the 19th and 20th April 2007.

This workshop is one of 9 that will be organised within PROFET Policy, a project financed by the European Commission with the aim to disseminate results of research conducted under the 5th and 6th Framework Programmes of the European Union (see www.profetpolicy.info for more information).

The workshop held in Lithuania will focus on the Baltic sea area and will present the most interesting results of Baltic fisheries research to stakeholders with a specific focus on the fishing community.

Speakers are drawn from all over the Baltic and beyond (programme with speakers detail can be downloaded from <http://www.eurofish.dk/index.php?id=3395>) which will ensure the workshop will serve as a unique platform for the exchange of views and opinions on future research needs and other critical issues affecting Baltic fisheries.

The first session will be opened by Michael Andersen from the Danish fishermen’s association and will present the current state of fisheries in the Baltic and the critical issues the sector is facing. Henn Ojaveer, from the Marine and Fisheries Institute of Talinn University and Chairman of the workshop will follow by introducing current fisheries research in the Baltic presenting its relevance for the fisheries sector.

Representatives from the DG Fish and the Russian government, the two political players involved with Baltic fisheries since Estonia, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania joined the EU will then be asked in the second session to present EU and Russian policies affecting the sector.

Having approached the background against which the sector evolves in the first two session, the workshop will then move on to see how the ecosystem approach is being applied in the Baltic with presentations on the integration of environmental requirements and extrinsic drivers in fisheries management, marine protected areas and the integration between ecosystem and society.

Cod being an iconic species and representing the first Baltic species in terms of value, a special session has been designed to take its importance into account.

Critical problem of IUU and the issue of stock recovery will be given specific attention.

The fifth session will focus on the sustainable development of Baltic fisheries and will cover crucial topics such as ecolabelling, fleet based management, dioxin and scientific advice to fisheries management.

The workshop will conclude with a discussion panel between selected speakers and the audience where the needs for future research will be debated. Conclusions from these panel discussions will form the basis of a document detailing guidelines for future fisheries research needs in the Baltic Sea area.

The workshop will be held in English with simultaneous Russian translation.

For more information about that workshop, please contact Gilles van de Walle by email: gilles.vandewalle@eurofish.dk or call him on +45 333 777 65. Please visit <http://www.eurofish.dk/index.php?id=3395> for complete programme and speakers' detail.