

**Convention
on Fishing
and Conservation of the Living Resources
in the Baltic Sea and the Belts**

The States Parties to this Convention

- bearing in mind that maximum and stable productivity of the living resources of the Baltic Sea and the Belts is of great importance to the States of the Baltic Sea basin,
- recognizing their joint responsibility for the conservation of the living resources and their rational exploitation,
- being convinced that the conservation of the living resources of the Baltic Sea and the Belts calls for closer and more expanded cooperation in this region,

have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting States shall:

- co-operate closely with a view to preserving and increasing the living resources of the Baltic Sea and the Belts and obtaining the optimum yield, and, in particular to expanding and co-ordinating studies towards these ends,
- prepare and put into effect organizational and technical projects on conservation and growth of the living resources, including measures of artificial reproduction of valuable fish species and/or contribute financially to such measures, on a just and equitable basis, as well as take other steps towards rational and effective exploitation of the living resources.

ARTICLE II

1. The area to which this Convention applies, hereinafter referred to as "the Convention area", shall be all waters of the Baltic Sea and the Belts, excluding internal waters, bounded in the west by a line as from Hasenore Head to Gniben Point, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Head to the Kullen.
2. This Convention shall apply to all fish species and other living marine resources in the Convention Area.

ARTICLE III

Nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to affect the rights, claims or views of any Contracting State in regard to the limits of territorial waters and to the extent of jurisdiction over fisheries, according to international law.

ARTICLE IV

For the purpose of this Convention the term "vessel" means any vessel or boat employed in catching or treating fish or other living marine organisms and which is registered or owned in the territory of, or which flies the flag of, any Contracting State.

ARTICLE V

1. An International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", is hereby established for the purposes of this Convention.
2. Each Contracting State may appoint not more than two representatives as members of the Commission and such experts and advisers to assist them as that State may determine.

3. The Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from amongst its members who shall serve for a period of four years and who shall be eligible for re-election, but not for two consecutive terms of office.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected from the representatives of different Contracting States.

4. A member of the Commission elected as its Chairman shall forthwith cease to act as a representative of a State and shall not vote. The State concerned shall have the right to appoint another representative to serve in the Chairman's place.

ARTICLE VI

1. The Office of the Commission shall be in Warsaw.
2. The Commission shall appoint its Secretary and as it may require appropriate staff to assist him.
3. The Commission shall adopt its rules of procedure and other provisions which the Commission shall consider necessary for its work.

ARTICLE VII

1. The Commission shall adopt its financial rules.
2. The Commission shall adopt a two years budget of proposed expenditures and budget estimates for the fiscal period following thereafter.
3. The total amount of the budget including any supplementary budget shall be contributed by the Contracting States in equal parts.
4. Each Contracting State shall pay the expenses related to the participation in the Commission of its representatives, experts and advisers.

ARTICLE VIII

1. Except where the Commission decides otherwise, it shall hold its sessions every two years in Warsaw at such time as it shall deem suitable. Upon the request of a representative of a Contracting State in the Commission, provided it is endorsed by a representative of another Contracting State, the Chairman of the Commission shall, as soon as possible, summon an extraordinary session at such time and place as he determines, however not later than three months from the date of the submission of the request.
2. The first session of the Commission shall be called by the Depositary Government of this Convention and shall take place within a period of ninety days from the date following the entry into force of this Convention.
3. Each Contracting State shall have one vote in the Commission. Decisions and recommendations of the Commission shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of votes of the Contracting States, present and voting at the meeting.
4. English shall be the working language of the Commission. The languages of the Signatory States are the official languages of the Commission. Only recommendations, decisions and resolutions of the Commission shall be made in these languages.

At meetings of the Commission any Contracting State has the right to have all the proceedings translated into its own language. All the costs related to such translations shall be borne by that State.

ARTICLE IX

1. It shall be the duty of the Commission:
 - a) to keep under review the living resources and the fisheries in the Convention area by collecting, aggregat-