

## Concrete actions towards a more sustainable fisheries management in the Baltic Sea

**Date:** Thursday, 25 April 2024

**Theme:** Sustainable Aquaculture & Fishery

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### Workshop Summary

The workshop delved deeper into the fisheries management of specifically herring in the Baltic Sea. Over the last decade, fish stocks have decreased dramatically across the BSR, however, fisheries management tend to lean on economic and political decisions that are often short-sighted.

The moderator **Charles Berkow** from SU introduced the session with some insights into the current state of Baltic Sea fish stocks and how they are managed. **Ivars Putnis** from BIOR, LV outlined the fisheries management in the Gulf of Riga, where the herring stock is thriving. He points out environmental factors and that only two countries, Latvia and Estonia, are involved in the fish stock management, making it fairly straightforward to manage. This was followed by a scientific outline of the herring stock assessment from **Nicolas Goñi** at LUKE and **David Giljam** at SLU. The last presenter, **Linda Sundström** from Åland Government reported on how they manage the cod stock, which seems to be in a healthy condition.

The second part of the workshop, four panelists – **Vesa Tschernij**, Simrishamn Municipality, **Jonas Haralds**, FLAG Ostrobothnia, **Linda Sundström** and **Ivars Putnis** discussed the proposed action points. They highlighted the importance to focus on small-scale coastal fishing. Moreover, in order to restore healthy stocks, we should promote fishing for human consumption rather than large-scale, industrial fishing for fish meal production which is causing a rapid decline in fish stocks. Finally, new species such as Round Goby are a potential alternative for fisheries, and it is important to develop a value chain for these fish species so that they can be better utilized.