

Protokoll fört vid enskild föredragning

Näringsavdelningen

Fiskeribyran, N3

Beslutande

Minister

Nina Fellman

Föredragande

Avdelningschef

Linnéa Johansson

Justerat

Omedelbart

Ärende/Dnr/Exp.

Beslut

Nr 8

Stängning av torskfisket år 2019.

ÅLR 2019/4989

117 N3

Beslöts sända landskapsregeringens ställningstagande angående kommissionens förslag till stängning av torskfisket 2019 till EU-kommissionär Karmenu Vella, enligt **bilaga 1, N319E06**.

Commissioner Karmenu Vella
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Reference

Contact

Message

EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR EASTERN BALTIC COD

The Government of Åland has been informed of the Commissions intention to close cod fishing in the Baltic Sea in the second half of 2019, entering into force as of next week. I am writing to convey my concerns on this issue.

The urgent measures the Commission is preparing in order to prohibit cod fishing in sub-divisions 24-32 hence also covering all Finnish waters including the waters surrounding the Åland Islands. As you surely know Åland has competence in fisheries and manages fisheries through our own acts and regulations. The Government of Åland is much aware of the severe situation of the eastern cod stock and the need for urgent measures. We support the Commission in its efforts to alleviate the threat to the conservation of the eastern Baltic cod stock.

However, the Government of Åland cannot agree on a cod fishing prohibition for small-scale gillnet fishing. The cod fishing around the Åland Islands is targeted fishing with no by-catch. The allowed by-catch rule of 10 % would not be applicable for the fishermen on the Åland Islands. The cod catch in small-scale fishing around the Åland Islands gives yearly catches of less than 40 tons, but it is an important income for around 15 fishermen. The Government of Åland therefore proposes that small-scale gillnetting should be exempted from the prohibition.

I would like to point out that the cod in the waters around the Åland Islands are in much better condition than in other areas of the Baltic and that they do not suffer from parasite infestation. The very small-scale fishing around the Åland Islands, where the cod is in better condition than other divisions, will not fall under the derogations proposed by the Commission services. The Government of Åland finds this unacceptably unproportioned.

I hope we will be able to find a solution to this issue before the necessary measures are taken.

Minister

Nina Fellman

Permanent Secretary of
Trade and Industry

Linnéa Johansson