



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS ŽEMĖS ŪKIO MINISTERIJA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Coalition Clean Baltic
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Eastern Baltic cod: emergency measures

It is to notify that Lithuania appreciates Coalition Clean Baltic actions to protect eastern Baltic cod stock in accordance with Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). We are aware of the deteriorating condition of eastern Baltic stock. The latest eastern Baltic cod benchmark report by International Council for the Exploration of Sea (ICES) certainly confirms the deteriorating status. Eastern Baltic cod is one of the most important fisheries stocks for us in the Baltic Sea and income source of Lithuania's fishermen. Therefore, it is our national interest to protect eastern Baltic cod in a sustainable manner.

Lithuania has already initiated preparations for emergency measures. On 26 October 2018 Lithuania signed a joint statement with the Commission. According to the statement, Lithuania deems it necessary to adopt emergency measures in accordance with Article 13(1) of Regulation 1380/2013. The emergency measures consist of closing fishing activities in Subdivisions 25-32 by two additional months in June and August 2019 for Lithuanian fishing vessels fishing for cod. Under the current circumstances it is relevant to consider possible measures at regional-level, i.e. within the BALTFISH framework. The BALTFISH forum and high-level group meeting is due to be held on 3 and 4 June 2019 in Stockholm with possible measures for eastern Baltic cod on the agenda and a representative of the Commission present. We are convinced that having the benchmark report of ICES and relevant stakeholders involved we will come up with swift decisions.

Yours faithfully,

Darius Liutikas
Vice Minister