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The Baltic Salmon Fund strongly support the decision by the Commission to take legal action against Finland's so called scientific fishing for salmon.

The Swedish wild salmon rivers, where we share Torne river with Finland, account for more than 90% of the wild salmon population in the Baltic. After a positive development in some rivers thanks to strong regulations on fishing in the Baltic Sea and local efforts in our rivers the salmon populations now show a very dire situation in 2023 and 2024. There are several reasons behind this, one is of course the lack of herring especially in the Gulf of Bothnia. Another reason can be climate change with increasing sea temperatures.

What Finland does as the most important fishing nation in the north is of outmost importance for the management of the fish populations. Taking that into account it is unacceptable not to respect the scientific advice and follow the precautionary principle to protect the wild salmon. Any action that risk to further deteriorate the situation must be banned. We therefore strongly support the decision by the Commission to take legal action against Finland.

Furthermore we hope that the upcoming proposal from the Commission for fisheries in the Baltic 2026 will have a focus to strengthen the wild salmon population in all aspects.

The Baltic Salmon Fund is an independent foundation. Our vision is to restore viable self-reproducing salmon populations within the original wild salmon rivers in the Swedish Baltic region. We work actively to support and develop local salmon management in all wild salmon rivers that flow into the Baltic Sea. We also work to reduce commercial fishing with traps in the river mouth areas. Strong salmon rivers are ecologically important and provide attractive sport fishing and create conditions for job opportunities through well managed fishing tourism.

Yours sincerely,

Axel Wenblad

Chairman

Baltic Salmon Fund