



## **Background to the Conference**

The Swedish Ministry of Agriculture and the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (BSRAC) are jointly organising a conference called: "Baltic Sea Fisheries: Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives"

It will take place on 1st – 2nd October, starting and ending with lunch. It will take place at the Grand Spa and Grand Hotel Saltsjöbaden on the outskirts of Stockholm, about 15 minutes by car.

The Baltic Sea is one of the prioritised themes for the Swedish Presidency, which starts on 1st July 2009. One key issue for the Baltic Sea is fisheries. Both the fishing industry and the environment in the Baltic Sea are changing. This change requires new political decisions and management solutions. The conference will focus on the new decisions and solutions needed by starting in the past, passing through the present and looking to the future.

The Swedish minister for Agriculture, Eskil Erlandsson, and the BS RAC Chair, Reine Johansson, have invited ministers from around the Baltic and the Commissioner for DG Mare Joe Borg to the conference. They are encouraged to set aside the first half day to discuss the future of fisheries and the environment of the Baltic Sea.

Commissioner Joe Borg, the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Eva Kjer Hansen and the Polish Secretary of State, Kazimierz Plocke, have already accepted to take part.

The conference is still at the planning stage. The programme will be finalised at a forthcoming BS RAC planning meeting on 8th June in Copenhagen. The themes will aim to cover management and science, as well as control issues and a historical perspective. The final programme will be approved by the ExCom in Vaasa, Finland, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Invitations will soon be sent out.

More detailed information will be posted on our website as soon as possible.