

DOMESTIC FISHERY

Sweden's geographical positioning in Scandinavia has created the situation where most fisheries resources come from waters shared with other nations. The OECD states all of the stocks exploited by Sweden are shared with neighbouring states and Total Allowable Catches (TAC) are thus in general determined internationally after negotiations with other countries. Prior to such negotiations, the Swedish position is decided on the basis of scientific advice from ICES and after consultations with biologists and representatives of the fishing industry. In the Baltic Sea, Sweden exploits stocks which fall within the jurisdiction of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission and it is within the framework of this body that TACs are determined. In the case of Baltic stocks for which no TACs can be agreed upon, TACs normally are decided unilaterally, taking account of scientific advice and catch requirements. In the case of the joint coastal state management in the Skagerrak/Kattegat area, TACs are determined after international negotiations with the other parties concerned *ie.* the EEC and Norway.

Sweden has six bilateral agreements concerning fishing in third country fishery zones and third country fishing in Swedish fishery zones. With the exception of the bilateral agreement with the EEC, which is a framework agreement for a period of ten years, the agreements cover six-year periods and are automatically renewable unless notice is given by either party. The negotiations were initiated by the extension of the fishing zone (to the median lines with neighbouring countries), on January 1, 1978. With the exception of two agreements (EEC Salmon Agreement and the Agreement with Norway), the agreements are reciprocal. However, the agreements with Germany and Poland were transitional agreements for their initial period of being in force, after which they have been replaced by reciprocal arrangements. An agreement was reached in 1989 between Sweden and Poland on the delimitation of the continental shelf, as well as on co-ordinates for the borderline between the fishery zones for both parties. The Agreement implied that an area of 500 square kilometres was shared between Sweden (75 percent) and Poland (25 percent).

Catch possibilities in Swedish waters are, to a large extent, influenced by international settlements, mainly the recommendations of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) and agreements with neighbouring countries. For the first time since 1978, the IBSFC was able to settle the question of recommending a total TAC for cod in the Baltic (220,000 tons) as well as shares between contracting parties. The Swedish TAC was then fixed at 44,000 tons. In 1993, total TAC for cod was reduced to 40,000 tonnes which 9,500 was allocated to Sweden. In order to protect the stock of Baltic wild salmon, continuous efforts have been made to restrict the fishing of salmon in the Baltic and in coastal/river areas. During the 1989 session with the IBSFC, Sweden presented a number of proposals with a view to protecting the wild salmon in the Baltic. In 1989, an important international agreement, concluded within the framework of the EFTA, will affect the future of the Swedish fisheries sector.

CONSUMPTION

The consumption of fresh and chilled fish, as well as canned and cured fish products, has remained unchanged during the last two decades. Consumption of frozen fillets has increased by approximately 40 percent during the same period. Official statistics do not reveal any particular short-term trends in the consumption of fish. However, efforts are made to increase the consumption of domestically produced fresh fish and fillets. In addition to the professional fisheries, there is also a rather important recreational fisheries sector in Sweden.