

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water, likely the Baltic Sea. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned just above the horizon, creating a long, horizontal lens flare effect. Its reflection is visible as a vertical column of light on the water's surface. The sky is a deep orange-red, and the water is a darker, muted red. In the distance, a dark silhouette of land or mountains is visible.

No fishers of the future
without fishes in the future!

Bengt Larsson, Small-scale Fisherman

Baltic Sea

26 june 2024

From my perspective

It should start early...

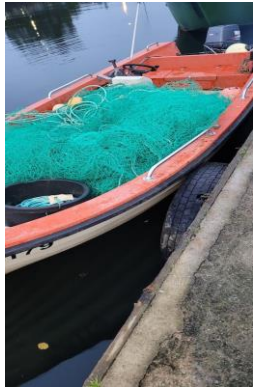


- 5 years old
- The pike? Approx 10-12 kilo



My role in fishing

- Professional fisherman for many years
- There have been professional fishermen in the family for generations
- Conducts both offshore and inshore archipelago fishing
- Offshore: Turbot, Flounder
- Inshore: Perch, pike, whitefish, herring, etc
- Earlier; Salmon and cod (offshore)
- And earlier, purse seine fishing for herring (inshore)
- Works with fisheries issues for SYEF (BSAC etc.)
- Member of LIFE



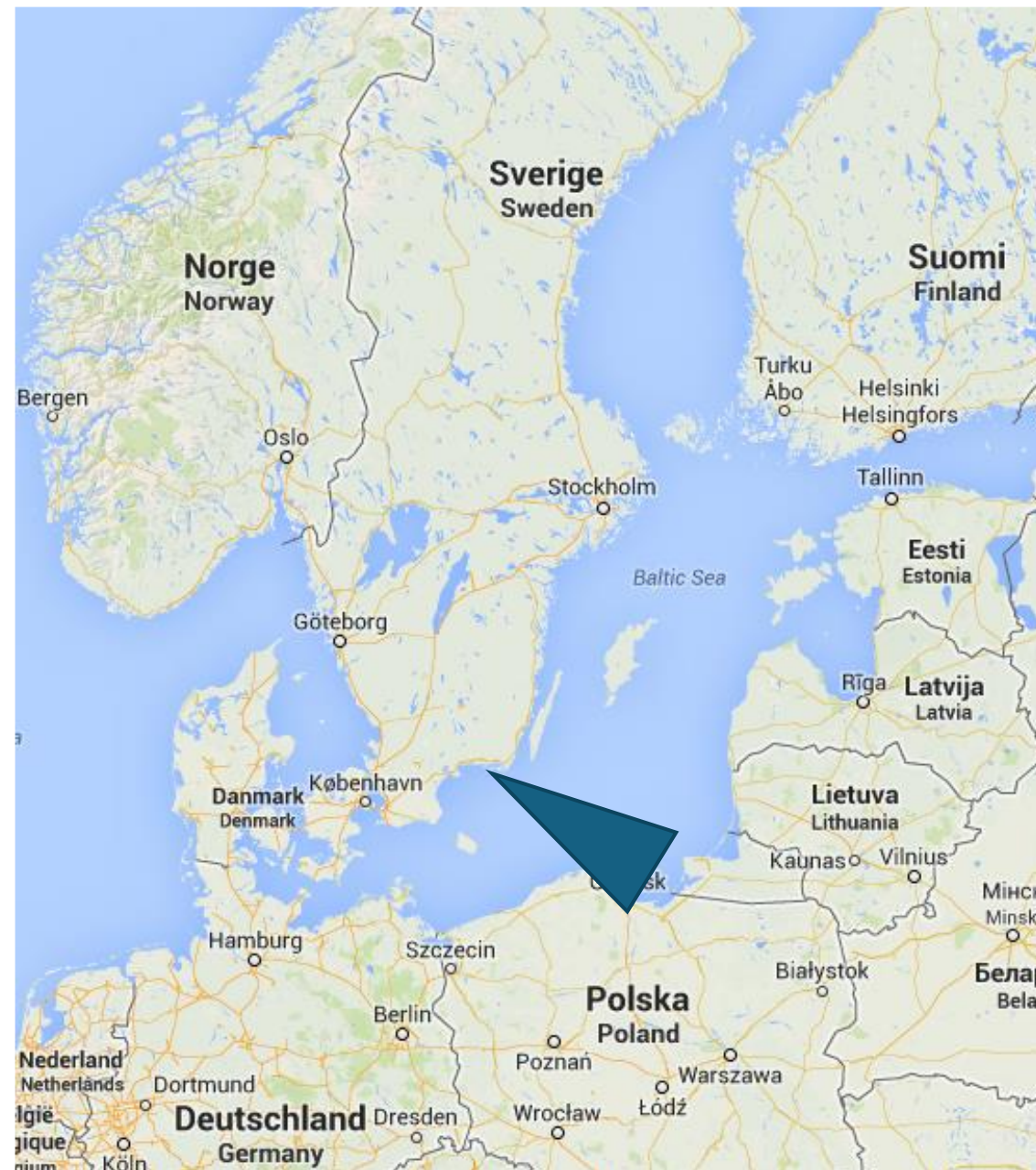
Hometown – Ronneby,
in the southeast of Sweden.

The harbour - Ronnebyhamn

In our region, Blekinge

1953 – 1550 Fishermen

2023 – Approx 15 Fishermen



Small-scale fishery in the Baltic

- Gillnet fishing since 200 years
- Hook fishing since the Stone Age
- Alternative gear



8000 years ago

The development of Small-scale fishing

- Large shifts and impact over time.
- "The old days": A general right for the archipelago population
- Fish – a life-sustaining resource
- "In recent years": Licensing system, restrictions for human consumption fishing (the archipelago population).
- Authorities' (in)decisiveness.
- Has led to few practitioners

Baltic fishstocks

How it was, and how did we get here?

- In the 70s



”Bengt caught giant cod”

Higher quotas - bigger fleet

Pelagic trawler increasingly common

- Huge catches in the 80s
- First serious signs for the codstock already in the 90s.
- The pelagic fleet switched to herring/sprat
- All species linked to herring/sprat have declined



Fishstocks in balance



Cod



Sprat and herring



In the 70s, 80s and 90s,

Fishstocks in balance ???

Now, these days
The nightmare came true.



We're
hungry !

- Cod



Sorry

The fridge is empty (or nearly)

Clear difference; Offshore – Coastal/archipelago

Species

Offshore

Cod, herring, sprat

(Salmon, porpoise)

Coastal/archipelago(Stationary):

Pike, perch, whitefish

Roach, bream, tinka tinka

What measures are needed for the Baltic Sea ecosystem

- Emergency: Reduce quotas to a minimum to avoid total shutdown
- Allow only low impact fishing
- Include the entire ecosystem to restore balance
- Also seals and cormorants

A reminder...

- Coromant – Carbo Sinensis





- Cliff-island Utklippan, south East Sweden:
- 1,500 gray seals
- Total in Baltic Sea 60,000 gray seals
- that eat an average of 7 kg of fish/day
- Biologically sustainable status = 25,000

Ytterligare åtgärder...

- Mellanskarv – *Carbo Sinensis*, (not *Carbo Carbo*)





Thanks for listening!



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