

SWEDISH POSITION PAPER

FISHERIES

04.10.30. THE COMMUNITY'S INTERNAL RESOURCES POLICY
Minutes of a meeting held on 1 April 1993

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2115/77 of 27 September 1977
prohibiting the direct fishing and landing of herring for industrial
purposes other than human consumption.

Community Regulation causing Problems

Fishing for herring for industrial purposes other than human consumption is at times conducted by Swedish fishermen in the Skagerrak, the Kattegat and the Baltic Sea. Community rules will prohibit these activities following Sweden's accession.

The present situation in Sweden

The Swedish fishery legislation does not prohibit fishing or landing of herring for industrial purposes other than human consumption.

Justification for Sweden's position

The greater part of the Swedish herring quota in the Skagerrak, the Kattegat and the Baltic Sea is reserved for human consumption. The market situation as regards herring - especially in the Baltic Sea - varies considerably over time. With reference to the present market for herring and in view of the size distribution of the Baltic Sea herring, a strictly monitored industrial fishing for herring should be allowed as an important complement to fishing for human consumption. Sweden therefore declares its keen interest in modification of the Community prohibition against fishing and landing of herring for other purposes than human consumption so as to permit the monitored and strictly controlled fishing for herring for industrial purposes in the Skagerrak, the Kattegat and the Baltic Sea.

From a biological point of view, it obviously makes no difference whether catches of herring are used for human consumption or for industrial purposes. This view is expressed in the annual agreed minutes on fishery arrangements in the Skagerrak/Kattegat, where the former regulation on direct fishing for herring for human consumption was abolished in 1987. In later agreements, both Swedish and Norwegian negotiators note that "it is to be left to each of the three Parties to decide for themselves on the use of the herring catches".