

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
ON FISHERIES

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Finland, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

considering the close relations between Lithuania and Finland, and with a common desire to intensifying those relations;

considering their common desire to ensure the conservation and rational management of the fish stocks of the waters adjacent to their coasts;

having regard to the fact that Finland has a fishery zone in which it exercises sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the resources thereof and that Lithuania has a zone under its jurisdiction in the Baltic Sea within which Lithuania exercises sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the resources thereof;

taking into account the fact that a part of the fishery resources of the Baltic Sea consists of common stocks or highly interrelated stocks exploited by fishermen of both Parties, and that an effective conservation and rational management of these stocks can therefore only be achieved through cooperation between the Parties and in the appropriate international fora, in particular the International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission;

convinced of the interest for both Parties to fish in the area of fisheries jurisdiction of the other Party in the Baltic;

anxious to develop closer cooperation in the fisheries sector;

desirous of establishing the terms and conditions pertaining to fisheries of mutual interest to the Parties,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The Parties shall cooperate to ensure the conservation and rational management of the fish stocks occurring within the areas of fisheries jurisdiction of both Parties and in adjacent areas.

2. The Parties shall seek either directly or through appropriate regional bodies to agree with third parties on measures for the conservation and rational utilization of these stocks, including the total allowable catch and the allocation thereof.

Article 2

Each Party shall grant access to fishing vessels of the other Party to fish within its area of fisheries jurisdiction in the Baltic Sea in accordance with the provisions set out below.

Article 3

Each party shall, as appropriate, determine annually for its area of fisheries jurisdiction, subject to adjustment when necessary, to meet unforeseen circumstances, and on the basis of the need for rational management of the living resources:

(a) the total allowable catch for individual stocks or complexes of stocks, taking into account the best scientific evidence available, the interdependence of stocks, the work of appropriate international organizations and other relevant factors;

(b) after appropriate consultations, allocations for fishing vessels of the other Party and the areas within which these allocations may be fished in accordance with the objective of establishing a mutually satisfactory balance in their reciprocal fisheries relations;

(c) on reciprocal access arrangements in the context of joint management schemes for common stocks.

2. Each Party shall establish such other measures as it deems to be required for the conservation or restoration of fish stocks at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield. Such measures, and any measures taken subsequent to the annual determination of fishing possibilities, shall take into account the need not to jeopardize the full exercise of the fishing rights allocated under this Agreement.

Article 4

Each Party may require that fishing in its area of fisheries jurisdiction by fishing vessels of the other Party shall be subject to licence. The limits within which licences shall be issued shall be determined in consultations between the Parties. The competent authority of each Party shall, as appropriate, communicate in due time to the other Party the name, registration number, and other relevant particulars of the fishing vessels which shall be eligible to fish within the area of fisheries jurisdiction of the other Party. The other Party shall thereupon issue such licences within the agreed limits.

Article 5

1. Each Party shall take appropriate measures with a view to ensuring compliance by its vessels with any conservation measures agreed between the Parties pursuant to this Agreement.

2. Fishing vessels of one Party shall when fishing within the area of fisheries jurisdiction of the other Party, comply with the conservation measures, supervisory measures, other terms and conditions and all rules and regulations governing fishing activities in that area.

3. Each Party shall give appropriate notice to the other Party of any new measures or conditions governing fishing activities in the area under its fishery jurisdiction.

4. The measures to regulate fisheries taken by each Party for the purpose of conservation shall be based on objective and scientific criteria and shall not discriminate in fact or in law against the other Party.

5. Each Party may take within its area of fisheries jurisdiction such measures, in conformity with international law as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Agreement by vessels of the other Party.

Article 6

The Parties undertake to cooperate and to facilitate the necessary scientific research, in particular with regard to:

(a) stocks occurring within the areas of fisheries jurisdiction of both Parties, with a view to achieving, as far as practicable, harmonization of measures for the regulation of fisheries in respect of such stocks;

(b) stocks of common interest occurring within the area of fisheries jurisdiction of both Parties and in the area beyond and adjacent to those areas.

Article 7

The Parties shall encourage and promote cooperation to create favourable and stable climate in the fisheries sector. In order to contribute to the improvement of the skills and knowledge of those involved in the fisheries and aquaculture, the Parties shall pay particular attention to the training needs and find ways for joint activities in the educational and practical work.

Article 8

1. The Parties shall consult on questions relating to the implementation and proper functioning of this Agreement.
2. In the event of a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement such a dispute shall be the subject of consultations between the Parties.

Article 9

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall affect or prejudice in any manner the views of either party with respect to any question relating to the law of the sea.

Article 10

This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which the Parties notify each other of the completion of the procedures necessary for this purpose.

Article 11

This Agreement is concluded for an initial period of ten years. The Agreement shall automatically be prolonged for additional six-year periods provided that neither Party gives the other a written notice of denunciation six months before the Agreement expires.

Done at *Helsinki* on *7th June* 1993, in two copies in the Lithuanian, Finnish and English languages, each of these texts being equally authentic. In case of dispute the English text of this Agreement shall be determinative.

For the Government of the
Republic of Lithuania

For the Government of the
Republic of Finland

