

## **FISHERIES SERVICES**

### **SWEDEN**

Starting with the consumers and ending with the harvesting sector a value chain approach is used with the following in answer to the questionnaire. The Swedish fishery sector is to a large extent regulated by EU, the common fisheries policy – CFP. Here we will mainly try to inform you about services, regulations and rules that are particular for Sweden.

#### **Retailers and Consumers**

In Sweden there is an organization called Svensk Fisk (Swedish Fish) which main purpose is to encourage people to eat more fish. Svensk Fisk provides information about local fishes and distributes recipes. Between 1994 and 2000 Svensk Fisk was a part of the Swedish Board of Fisheries. From 2001 Svensk Fisk is no longer a part of SBF, but is an incorporated association that is run by different associations in the fishery sector. Their work is financed by membership fees and to some extent by contributions from CFP schemes.

In Sweden you can buy eco-labelled fish products. The name of the eco-labelling organization in Sweden is KRAV which is organised as an incorporated association with, at present, 28 members. They represent farmers, processors, trade and also consumer, environmental and animal welfare interests. Producers and companies that are certified by KRAV pay a fee to cover expenses.

Products with the MSC-label are also available to the consumers.

During the development of guidelines for voluntary eco-labelling standards SBF took part in the working group along with other interested parties. This working group was partially financed by contributions from CFP schemes.

#### **Processing and Traders**

There are rules and regulations concerning sanitary standards and food safety. They are applicable for fish as well as other food products. It has been possible for the fish processing industry to obtain small contributions from CFP schemes to make investment needed to reach the stipulated sanitary standards.

#### **Fish auctions**

There are three functioning fish auctions in Sweden, all of them located along the west coast. The main one is in Gothenburg and two smaller ones further north in Smögen and Strömstad.

The ownership picture differs between the three. But the running of the auctions is in all three cases financed by those who use its services and not financed by the public sector.

#### **Fishing licenses**

There are two kinds of fishing licenses: fishing vessel permits and personal fishing licenses. Both are provided by the Swedish Board of Fisheries and are mandatory for commercial fishing in Sweden.

The rules for personal fishing licenses provide that the incomes from the fishery should be of essential importance for the fisherman's subsistence. The license may only be issued for a limited period. There is an administration fee of 500 SEK when applying for a license.

The fisherman has to have a personal fishing license for getting a fishing vessel permit. The rules for fishing vessel permit includes that the fishing vessel has to be registered in the fleet register at the National Maritime Administration. All fishing vessels with a length of more than 5 meters used in the sea for professional fishery have to have a fishing vessel permit (inland fishery is excluded). Entry/exit regime and reference levels of the fishing fleet are issued by the European Union.

The fishery conducted has to be connected with the Swedish fishing industry. This means that more than half of the value of the total catch should be landed in Sweden on a one-year basis, more than half of the fishing trips should take a start from a Swedish port or more than half of the crew should be living in Sweden.

The Swedish Board of Fisheries take into consideration the access of fish resources, the type of fishing conducted and regional issues when the licenses are considered. The administration of licenses is regulated by Swedish law and national rules that are issued by the Swedish Board of fisheries.

## **Harvesting**

According to Swedish and EU regulations all fishing vessels are obliged to report their fishing at sea. The information is reported to the Swedish Board of Fisheries which is responsible for the administration and control of the quotas. The quota administration and control measures connected to it are paid by the government.

For fishing vessels longer than 15 m it is compulsory with a Vessel Monitoring System, VMS. The VMS simplifies surveillance. Purchase and installation of the VMS is financed by the government. The government also pays for the costs associated with the transmission of data. The owner of the fishing vessel has to pay the costs for reparations and possible changes of the installation. Today there are 196 Swedish vessels that are equipped with VMS.

## **Research**

Research is to a large extent financed by the government or by different research grants. The research conducted at the universities with relevance for the fishery sector has focus on marine biology and marine ecosystems. The result from this research can of course be of use for the fishery sector, but for other sectors as well.

Research with a stronger focus on the fishery sector is conducted by the Swedish Board of Fisheries. More selective gears are developed, the status of the resource is measured (stock assessment), the feeding pattern of seals is documented etc. Also this research is to a large extent financed by the government. There are also some financial contributions from the private sector and by research grants.

## **Aquaculture**

Veterinary and health control services are provided by Fiskhälsan FH AB (a limited company working for fish health), which is commissioned by the industry and the state to take care of the preventive health control of farmed fish and crayfish, and the National Veterinary Institute, which offers competence and diagnostic service for fish and other animal species.

Aquaculture companies pay a fee for health control services provided by Fiskhälsan FH AB. The size of the fee depends on the company's production. For specific preventive measures or measures to prevent diseases extra fees are sometimes charged.

Research services are provided by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Department of Aquaculture in Umeå. Also the national fisheries authority, Swedish Board of Fisheries, is performing research on aquaculture.

Environmental impact assessment in connection with permits and licenses is conducted by county administrative boards. They also provide advice concerning geographical locations. Aquaculture production is regulated by the environmental permits, which also regulate the use of feed. In Sweden, certain areas of the country are appointed as nationally prioritized areas for aquaculture, and that should be taken into account in the municipal and regional planning. Some water regulation issues are regulated in the Environmental Law and by issued sentences.

The national fisheries legislation consists of law and regulations. The Swedish Board of Fisheries has the authorization from the government to issue additional regulations in the area of aquaculture.

### **Veterinary services**

Veterinary services are provided by Fiskhälsan FH AB (a limited company working for fish health), which is commissioned by the industry and the state to take care of the preventive health control of farmed fish and crayfish. Fish farms companies can voluntarily join the organized health control.

Also The National Veterinary Institute (SVA), which is a national authority, provides veterinary services for the industry.