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## PRESS RELEASE

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# WWF's Baltic Sea Leadership Award given to Swedish Marine Spatial Planning Commissioner Axel Wenblad

**During the annual WWF Baltic Sea Festival Seminar, held on August 31 in Stockholm, Axel Wenblad, former Director General of the Swedish Board of Fisheries and Special Commissioner, received the 2011 WWF Baltic Sea Leadership Award. He is rewarded for his leadership and proposal for a new Marine Spatial Planning legislation in Sweden.**

The WWF award was presented today at the Embassy of Finland by the Swedish king Carl XVI Gustaf.

*In the motivation "WWF applauds Axel Wenblad in his role as Special Commissioner for his leadership and contribution to the Swedish inquest on a legislative Marine Spatial Planning Act and Regulation Proposal. The aim of the new act is to achieve a holistic and harmonised system of marine planning and management – something that WWF has promoted for years. Through his efforts, Axel Wenblad has proved to be a tireless ambassador for advocating the need for transforming the current approach to sea use management – providing concrete advice and guidance on how Marine Spatial Planning can be achieved on a national level. "*

– This is a great and unexpected honour. Sweden has the longest coastline in the EU and thus a special responsibility for planning and managing marine resources to protect the ecosystem. Today there are many demands on the sea, from fishing to wind power, shipping, tourism and recreation. Marine spatial planning legislation is an effective tool to reduce conflicts and help us fulfill our national environmental goals and attain EU's goal of good environmental status of the marine environment by 2020, says Axel Wenblad.

**Facts:** The Baltic Sea Festival is organised for the 9th year in a row by Berwaldhallen, the conductors Esa-Pekka Salonen and Valerij Gergiev in cooperation with among others WWF. The aim is to bring together people of the Baltic Sea region with an interest in classical music, environment, and the concept of leadership.

### The Baltic Sea Leadership Award

WWF believes that what we need is true leadership that goes beyond words to deliver real results and examples for others to follow. In 2007, WWF founded the WWF Baltic Sea Leadership Award.

Award recipients: Björn Carlson (2007) founder of Baltic 2020 Foundation, Wallenius Water and Alfa-Laval (2007) Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland (2008), Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Finland (2009) and Poul Degnol, Head of Advisory Programme at the International Council of the Exploration of the Sea ICES Programme (2010).

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