

Online meeting of SeaWise - its Scoping meeting 220422

SeaWise deals with implementation of ecosystem based management. It is aimed at paving the way for the effective implementation of ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) in Europe. The project will enhance the value of fisheries and will create tools and advice for collaborative management.

This scoping meeting for the Baltic was chaired by Anna Rindorf DTU Aqua coordinating the SeaWise project, and her colleague Nis.

Taking part were:

Elo Rasmann Min of Env, Estonia

Kaire Märtin, Mon of Env Estonia

Florian Stein Ger Anglers and from BSAC

Sara Söderström, Fish Sec and from BSAC

Wolfgang Albrecht, FPA and from BSAC

Michael Andersen, DFPO and from BSAC

Viesturs Ulis, Latvian Fisheries Association and from BSAC

So, a mixture of representatives from administration, fishers (commercial and recreational) and environment.

It started with a brief introduction to the aims of SeaWise: what it wants to investigate in terms of providing advice and what exactly to provide advice on. It's a 4-year project, started October 2021. It also involves other regions and ACs. The project has already seen how input from the AC stakeholders compares with what the scientists find important for the advice.

The project takes two approaches:

1. To ask stakeholders directly (individually) what they want advice on – to point out what's important. All were encouraged to fill in the slide sent and send it in
2. To work in groups - today's group started with a few interactive questions to the participants. Who they are, from where, area of interest and then the questions:

What ecological items would you like advice on?

What social items do you want advice on?

What items would you like to know the impact of?

Key words were provided by the participants.

The group had a more detailed discussion to clarify the input they had provided to the three questions on ecology, social impact and other impacts. There was a good and lively discussion and participants worked hard to clarify and explain and reach agreement on the issues that they find important in terms of advice.

Then there were some clarifying questions:

- **Which commercial species would you like advice on?** Here the group named cod, herring, salmon, sea trout, flatfish, sprat
- **Which non commercial species and habitats would you like to know the effect of fishing on?** Predators, Invasive species
- **Which management measures are thought most relevant in the area?** TACs, bag limit, technical measures, documentation and effects of spawning closures.
- **Do you have topics you would like us to talk about next time?** Technical measures + size selectivity, status quo of MPAs, impact of wind farms on spawning grounds, cause of cod decline and remedies; multispecies management

That was all taken note of.

Concluding, Anna said that all of the words and input provided today will be put together. They will try to design a draft advice to present and match the input. They are going to model lots of stuff. And they will come back and report back on a regular basis to say what they came up with.

At the same time, they are asking the literature what is available – are doing a very big review on that.

Thoughts or recommendations to the BSAC for follow-up/action: