

We wrote to members for contributions by the end of June 2020. One member wrote back to us. Thanks to members who gave positive feedback about the news that we put together every month. This is much appreciated.

Please let us have any news by last week of August if you want it to be included
BSAC Secretariat is closed for holiday from 20th July to 10th August 2020. Happy summer.

Parting is such sweet sorrow: we say goodbye to **Ewa Lavett** who ends her work with the Swedish Fishermen PO on 1st July 2020. Goodbye, Ewa, and thank you for the great cooperation we established so quickly with you.

BSAC news and meetings

Closing the year 2019-2020 (which ended 31st March 2020)

DG Mare has informed that the expenditure and accounts for the year ended are approved. We await their comments to the BSAC annual activity report

The BSAC Joint WG meeting 9th and 10th June 2020 – and BSAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BALTIC FISHERIES ARE ADOPTED

The BSAC succeeded in holding a virtual meeting with its members and provided interpreting. Thanks to all for cooperation and patience. The report is now available on the website. Working to a very tight deadline with the Commission this year, the time provided for consultation of WG members and the ExCom on the draft recommendations from the BSAC on the fishery for 2021 was really short. Note that the meeting also dealt with stickleback and cod (the stickleback fishery as a part of a plan to save cod), and the growing population of seals: the BSAC will return to these at its EBM WG meeting in September.

The meeting report is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-WG>

Information on the BSAC recommendations is below.

The BSAC ecosystem based working group 21st and 22nd September 2020

This meeting will take place on **21st and 22nd September 2020** – real in Copenhagen and/or virtual. It will be almost two full days. Please note the dates. The main aim of the meeting is to deal with some of the most relevant proposals coming out of the HELCOM BSAP; as well as seals, sticklebacks and harbour porpoise. This means a full and detailed agenda with hard work required by all. Proposed timing will be 10-17 first day, and 9-16 second day. Invitation and draft agenda to follow asap.

The Management Team met on 29th June 2020

Main items on the agenda were finalisation of the BSAC recommendations for the fishery, taking note of coming meetings, preparing for the external evaluation of the BSAC. It asked the Secretariat to prepare a response to the Commission Communication on fishing opportunities for 2021 and to do some preparatory drafting for further work on BSAC input to reform of the CFP. The report will be available to ExCom members very soon.

An ExCom meeting in the autumn?

At its meeting on 29th June 2020, the Management Team decided that an ExCom meeting could be organised before the Fisheries Council meeting in October to discuss the Commission's proposal for the fishing opportunities in 2021. The final decision on whether the meeting will be virtual or physical will be taken at a later stage.

ExCom meeting autumn Vigo with EFCA, 27th October 2020

The Management Team agreed to hold the ExCom meeting on **Tuesday 27th October 2020 in Vigo**. It would require traveling to Vigo on Monday and returning on Wednesday. EFCA will be consulted on the date. The meeting will be confirmed at a later stage and no journeys should be booked yet.

An external evaluation of the BSAC: work in progress

As agreed by the BSAC ExCom, the BSAC is to carry out an external evaluation. The Terms of Reference are in place and now the Management Team has the job to select the company to do the work. ExCom is updated and informed.

Advisory Councils meeting with DG Mare - Financial Seminar with DG MARE on 12th June 2020

All ACs met with DG Mare to talk about the Commission's revised guidelines to follow when making their specific agreements for each AC year. All ACs met in advance to prepare for it and to share experience so far under COVID-19 with organizing web-based meetings. The BSAC ExCom was informed about the meeting and the revised way of budget and financial management and procedures.

BSAC output recommendations from the BSAC and replies

BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the BALTIC in 2021 are available

This year, due to COVID-19, the BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2021 had been discussed and prepared under extraordinary circumstances. The recommendations include the BSAC position and all minority positions. All written contributions received from the BSAC members have been sent as annexes to the recommendations.

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-recommendations-for-the-Baltic-fisheries-2021>

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

BALTFISH Forum meeting 8th June 2020

The meeting was held through a web conference. Representing the BSAC: Esben Sverdrup-Jensen BSAC chair, Michael Andersen, chair of the demersal WG, Mart Undrest, chair of the pelagic WG, Nils Höglund chair of the EBM WG and the BSAC Secretariat. Several Baltic Member States took part at the **Forum**, as well as stakeholders from the fisheries and anglers sector and environmental NGOs. The meeting discussed the ICES advice on fishing opportunities for Baltic stocks for 2021.

The BSAC Secretariat produced a report from the meeting. Please find it here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest>

The BSAC letter to BALTFISH about eastern Baltic cod

The BSAC Secretariat contacted DG Mare for clarification on how to provide advice on possible bycatch provisions on cod for 2021, what data sources to use and what principles to follow. The BSAC Chair looks forward to meeting the new Director of DG MARE, MS Charlina Vitcheva. Please find the letter here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/6e3ba8e3-f496-4d09-b2bb-9a873465f490/BSACtoDGMareEBCbycatch290520.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BALTFISH meeting on bycatches of harbour porpoise 30th June 2020

Heard this announced by the Finnish minister at the Fisheries Council meeting on 29th June 2020.

Estonia takes over BALTFISH Presidency on 1st July 2020

The next BALTFISH meeting will be 7th and 8th September 2020 in Tallinn (?) or virtual?

Commission news and meetings

Charlina Vitcheva, new Director General at DG MARE

The European Commission has announced Charlina Vitcheva from Bulgaria as the new Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). She replaced Joao Aguiar Machado. The news was announced on 1st June 2020 by the European Commission who tweeted “We warmly welcome Ms. @vitcheva_eu as our new Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries”.

The EU tops up the fisheries fund EMFF by 500 million EUR to help recovery

2nd June 2020

The commission informs that this extra funding is part of the Recovery Package in connection with COVID-19 and follows earlier EU support measures to alleviate the immediate socio-economic impact on the sector. The Commission will work closely with EU MS to ensure that it contributes to a swift recovery, in line with the European Green Deal and the ambitions of the CFP. It adds that investment supported by the EMFF should strengthen the resilience of the sector and contribute to the European Green Deal, including 2030 Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies, as well as the circular economy. All EMFF funding should continue to promote the achievement of the economic, social and environmental objectives of the common fisheries policy.

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/eu-tops-fisheries-fund-%E2%82%AC500-million-help-recovery_en

An EU Consultation on Fish and seafood products – review of marketing standards

Vendors and traders of fish and seafood products (wild caught or farmed), must comply with certain standards to be able to place their products on the EU market. This initiative updates these standards to better meet the objectives of the legislation in this area, particularly to ensure:

- the products have been caught/farmed sustainably
- there is genuine competition on the market, and
- transparency on the products’ characteristics, such as quality and weight.

So, the roadmap was started and ended on 5th May 2020. You can read the inception impact assessment here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12262-Review-of-the-marketing-standards-framework-for-fishery-and-aquaculture-products>

The public consultation will be later this year.

European Commission kicks off major EU trade policy review

16th June 2020

The European Commission has launched a major review of the European Union’s trade policy, including a public consultation: it wants input from the European Parliament, Member States, stakeholders and civil society. The aim to build a consensus around a fresh medium-term direction for EU trade policy, responding to a variety of new global challenges and taking into account the lessons learned from the coronavirus crisis. DG Mare has sent the link:

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2158>

The deadline for written input is 15th September 2020.

Sustainable fisheries: Commission takes stock of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and launches consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2021

Brussels, 17 June 2020

This is the European Commission - Press release

The Commission has published its yearly Communication on the progress of management of fish stocks

in the EU, which is based on data from 2018. This year's edition, "Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021, reaffirms the Commission's strong commitment to promoting fisheries that are environmentally sustainable and economically viable, and shows the EU's progress in achieving that goal. Member States, Advisory Councils, the fishing industry, nongovernmental organisations, and interested citizens are invited to take part in a public consultation and express their views on the fishing opportunities for 2021. The Commission will be reaching out and actively listening to them over the next weeks.

Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, responsible for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, said: *"The first months of this year have been extremely challenging for the fisheries sector, but we have supported them across the EU. Sustainable fisheries, delivered through the Common Fisheries Policy, are necessary for increasing resilience and delivering the European Green Deal, in particular the recent Farm-to-Fork and EU Biodiversity Strategies. Fisheries management in the EU has brought us good news – we now have 50% more fish in the North East Atlantic seas than in 2003. Figures also show that the large fleet segments have become very profitable over the last years and bring increases in salaries. Challenges, however, remain, for example, we need to intensify our efforts to eliminate discards. I am counting on everyone to make an effort – Member States, industry and stakeholders. We must deliver what we have set out to achieve."*

The deadline for consultation is 31st August 2020.

Main news on this:

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/sustainable-fisheries-commission-takes-stock-progress-implementation-eus-common-fisheries_en

Consultation:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/fishing-opportunities-2021-under-common-fisheries-policy_en

EU Council news

From the EU Fisheries Council meeting on 29th June 2020 – you can watch it from start to end!

There were thanks from ministers to Croatia for arranging this informal video conference meeting. At the very start of the meeting is a presentation by the Commissioner of current policy items, including the Consultation on fishing opportunities and the coming work on TACs and quotas for 2021; later, he talks about the subject of bycatch of dolphins and harbour porpoise. Then there was an exchange of views by ministers from across the EU. Watch the meeting here:

<https://video.consilium.europa.eu/en/webcast/a7f7b0c3-43b9-4f10-bf24-03e79e162127>

At this meeting, the Ministers held a discussion on the Commission communication "Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021". The Commissioner presented the Communication to the ministers.

The Presidency has made a background note of the Commission's Communication:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44640/presidency-background-note-on-the-commission-communication-on-sustainable-fishing-june-2020.pdf>

And see the graphic:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2020/06/29/>

The Croatian presidency informed ministers on the state of play of current legislative proposals in the area of fisheries, including the fisheries control regulation:

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8729-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

and the regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF):

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/maritime-fisheries-fund/>

There were no formal conclusions from this informal meeting. The Croatian Presidency took note of the Commission presentation of its Communication; COVID and Brexit were highlighted by many. Bycatches of

dolphins harbour porpoises: important issues raised - and it's our obligation to protect species. And the state of play of current legislative proposals was taken note of.

The Commission presented a note on bycatch of dolphin and harbour porpoise:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44687/20200629-ec-note-by-catch-protected-species.pdf>

After the round of interventions by all the ministers, **the Commissioner** replied with a final call on all to focus on the issues at hand: highlighting the adoption of fishing opportunities in 2021, the Landing Obligation (including use of flexibility by means of quota swaps, and control and enforcement); it's premature to decide on any carryover due to COVID; the worrying situation of the Baltic Sea and need for urgent action – eastern Baltic cod requires urgent measures and he encourages the EP and Council to move swiftly on that matter. The COM won't be in position to support it if the core objectives of the proposals are not met. The EMFF is there to help all in achieving the goals, but goals should be compatible with principles (referring to overcapacity). It was time to accelerate the work on the EMFF proposal. Important process in motion thanks to this exchange of views. By achieving healthy and sustainable fish stocks: this is the only way to support the sector.

Taking over from Croatia is Germany. Announcing their Presidency, the German state minister said:

Thank you for the Commission Communication on fishing opportunities: Further progress is noteworthy, and further increase in sustainably managed stocks, but some stocks are facing difficulties e.g. in the Baltic. Germany will focus on: sound, well-balanced and sustainable TACs. On the EMFF there will be complex negotiations (nb on harmful fisheries subsidies - don't increase capacity) - Germany will work hard to achieve its timely adoption. The Control regulation is complex and with politically difficult issues to be discussed: electronic monitoring of the LO, and monitoring provisions for small scale coastal fishing. It's up to Germany to continue this. On the emergency Baltic Sea regulation to support the sector and aid for permanent cessation - it's vital to get this to take effect asap and please work together to succeed in this. And on dolphin and harbour porpoises: notes the Commission initiative and will support their work in that regard in BALTFISH - important to protection of marine mammals on basis of the ICES assessment to discuss and develop real measures - effective protection as well as the perspective of the fisheries concerned.

Back to Commission stuff

2020 Blue Economy Report: Blue sectors contribute to the recovery and pave the way for EU Green Deal

11th June 2020

The EU Commission published its EU Blue Economy Report 2020

It gives overview of the performance of the EU economic sectors related to oceans and the coastal environment. See here:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_986

Blue Economy: This is all about economic activities related to the oceans, seas and coasts.

15th June 2020

In its third edition, the EU Blue Economy Report continues to analyse the scope and size of the Blue Economy in the European Union. It aims at providing support to policymakers and stakeholders in the quest for a sustainable development of oceans, coastal resources and, most notably, to the...

Main entry page:

<https://blueindicators.ec.europa.eu/>

Report for 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/sites/maritimeaffairs/files/2020_06_blueeconomy-2020-ld_final.pdf

Commission: More protection for our seas and ocean is needed, report finds

25th June 2020

The Commission adopted today a report on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) which reveals that, while the EU's framework for marine environmental protection is one of the most comprehensive and ambitious worldwide, persistent challenges remain, such as excess nutrients, underwater noise, plastic litter, and other types of pollution as well as unsustainable fishing. This message is further reinforced in the European Environment Agency's "Marine Messages II" also published today.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1160

DG ENV also reports on the first implementation cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

25th June 2020

DG ENV also informs on this and comments that it needs to be beefed up to be able to tackle predominant pressures such as overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, plastic litter, excess nutrients, underwater noise and other types of pollution.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm

More on Marine Strategy Framework Directive: WISE-marine - information on European marine issues in support of ecosystem based management

DG ENV informed that the new version of WISE-Marine is now live. It makes available and downloadable all the MSFD reporting information, together with several data products, thematic pages on Policy and Reporting and on the State of Europe's seas (where the Pressures pages are still under construction) and sections such as the country profiles or the Regional Sea Conventions page. The MSFD reporting information products are under the section "Data, maps and tools", and they include:

- GES assessments visualization tools (general dashboards, thematic dashboards and story map)
- MSFD reporting data explorer (makes available the information from the last envelopes released under each reporting obligation by countries)
- MSFD datasets catalogue (that displays the information reported under the metadata URL field in the schema Indicators)
- MSFD reference datasets (Marine Reporting Units from the period 2012-2018 and 2018 onwards, marine waters, and Europe's seas).

<https://water.europa.eu/marine>.

European Commission Round Table on dolphins and harbour porpoise

On 26th June 2020, the European Commission held a virtual "Round table" discussion with Commissioner Sinkevičius concerning the protection of the resident population of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea and the short-beaked common dolphin in the Bay of Biscay. Speakers were invited to present the scientific advice, the views of the environmental non-governmental organisations, the European Commission's Directorates for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and for Environmental Policy. The European Parliament was also represented.

As agreed with the BSAC chair, Nils Höglund represented the BSAC and gave a 10-minutes speech. He participated in the panel discussions and answer questions.

Please find a BSAC report here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest>

The June issue of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries news is here:

It includes many of the items presented above:

https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=114&newsletter_issue_id=23751&pdf=true&fullDate=&lang=default

European Commission: harmonised standards for circular design of fishing gear CONSULTATION of the Advisory Councils

According to Article 8(9) of the Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, the Commission has to ask the European Standardization Organization to develop harmonised standards for circular design of fishing gear so as to enable re-use and facilitate recyclability at end of life. The aim is to create a level playing field for organizations to design and develop higher quality and lower the environmental impact fishing gear. The Commission has prepared a draft decision on this. It informs that it's based on the outcome of consultation with relevant stakeholders. Once developed, the standard will be voluntary for the organizations. The Advisory Councils have been invited to comment. The deadline is 22nd July 2020. The BSAC ExCom will be consulted asap

European Parliament news and meetings

Next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries: 2-3 September 2020 (tbc)

The PECH Newsletter „Trawler – June 2020“ prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries is now available on the PECH website:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/209087/Trawler%20June%202020.pdf>

Opening words from the Chair of the PECH Committee, Pierre Karleskind:

”In our last Committee meeting before the summer break (6th July 2020) our attention will be focused in particular on the key legislative file of "Fisheries control", for which over 1.000 amendments have been tabled by our Members and more are to come from opinion-giving committees. A fair and effective control regime is essential to ensure that EU fisheries are managed in a sustainable manner, which in turn may guarantee the long-term viability of the fisheries sector and safeguard the livelihoods of our fishers and coastal communities. We look forward to extensive and fruitful debates. Finding the compromises needed to build a common ground will be a challenging but essential exercise, in order to proceed to vote on this important file in the autumn”.

Note the Baltic on capacity limits for Eastern Baltic cod, data collection and control measures in the Baltic Sea, and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards permanent cessation for fleets fishing for Eastern Baltic cod – still not adopted and the next trilogue to deal with that will be 6th July 2020.

EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA – and improved cooperation with the Advisory Councils?

The joint letter from the BSAC and PELAC to EFCA with suggestions/input on how to improve cooperation between EFCA and the ACs has been sent. The BSAC is waiting to hear back from EFCA.

The letter is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/Letter-to-EFCA-on-cooperation-between-the-ACs-and>

News from other ACs

Plastics: implementation of the Single Use Plastics Directive and Fishing for Litter Scheme

The BSAC was invited, together with some other ACs, by the NWWAC to a virtual meeting on 18th June 2020 to discuss the draft that they had prepared and that the BSAC sent comments to. A short BSAC report is available here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest>

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSACReportNWWACFG180620final.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

Work is in good progress to finalise this and produce a joint set of recommendations from several ACs.

ICES and science

ICES has been holding its Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species - which leads to dolphins and harbour porpoises

This WG collates and assesses information on bycatch monitoring and assessment for protected species, including mammals, birds, turtles, and rare fish. See here

<https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGBYC.aspx>

On its page is a link to the draft report from the workshop that ICES held on 1st-3rd April 2020 to deal with fisheries Emergency Measures to minimize BYCatch (WKEMBYC) of short-beaked common dolphins in the Bay of Biscay and harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea. This stems from the request from eNGOs to the Commission about emergency measures to mitigate bycatch of those species. It also relates to the reporting above from the Commission Round Table on management measures with respect to dolphins and harbour porpoises. The draft report from the WG is here; there's no executive summary:

<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/HAPISG/2020/WKEMBYC%202020%20Draft%20Report.pdf>

HELCOM

HELCOM Heads of Delegation decide on BSAP target year.

9th -10th June 2020

HELCOM informs that yet another milestone was reached on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), with the HELCOM Contracting Parties agreeing on 2030 as the new target year for the plan. The decision was taken at the 58th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 58-2020) that was held online from 9 to 10 June 2020. During the meeting, the HELCOM Contracting Parties also approved the work plan and preliminary timetable of the BSAP, currently set to be launched during the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting planned for October 2021. Further on the BSAP, HOD 58-2020 also supported the inclusion of actions related to monitoring of the marine environment, climate change, awareness raising, financing, and economic and social analysis. See the news, hear some video messages and read the full outcome here:

<https://helcom.fi/helcom-heads-of-delegation-decide-on-bsap-target-year-at-key-meeting/>

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan update – more

The BSAP update work will continue next week at HOD 58 but focus there is on existing actions (based also on the outcome of FISH 11, and the rephrasing of existing actions). For proposed new actions, the next step is the [BSAP UP Workshop](#) on biodiversity which will be held from 31 August to 2 September as an online meeting. The BSAC Secretariat intends to take part.

After that, the HELCOM Group FISH 12 will continue the work on 11th -12th November (further formulation of actions and recommendations by the group on which ones to include in the BSAP) and decisions on which actions are to be included in the updated BSAP will be made by HOD 59 in December.

HELCOM further work on mammals: seals and harbour porpoise – their expert group on marine mammals MAMA

22nd -24th September 2020, Denmark

Other information/reading

SwAM on management measures to protect cod stocks

15th June 2020

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management made a report upon assignment by the Swedish Government to propose management measures, beyond those related to fisheries, in order to protect cod stocks in Swedish waters. The report is in Swedish but contains a summary in English on pages 9 - 13. The report gives an overview of current knowledge of different pressures on cod stocks, as well as proposals for measures to protect the stocks present in Swedish waters. Suggested measures / actions include both the Baltic and Skagerrak/Kattegat/The Belt Sea. Please note that this technical report by SwAM and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is not to be seen as a formal proposal or recommendation by Sweden.

The report can be found here:

<https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.1bd43926172bdc4d6481661b/1592488119668/ru-redovisning-pm-2743-19-ru-torsk.pdf>

The Swedish Fishermen PO also inform about the SwAM cod stock paper on their website

18th June 2020

Their headline: now cod can be protected. The cod stocks around Sweden are in a poor state, affected by several factors. It reports on the task given to SwAM and highlights the main elements. In Swedish:

<https://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/-sa-kan-torskbestanden-skyddas>

Joint NGO recommendations on fishing opportunities in the Baltic for 2021

10th June 2020

CCB has posted it on their website:

<https://ccb.se/2020/06/joint-ngo-recommendations-on-baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-for-2021/>

Baltic Sea Fish Stocks Remain in Crisis – NGOs Call for Closures of Herring and Cod stocks

29th May 2020

CCB has posted it on their website

Responding to today's publication of annual scientific advice for EU fishing limits for 2021 in the Baltic Sea by ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea), which finds important Baltic fish populations remain in a state of crisis, and the entire Baltic Sea ecosystem in very poor health, a group of non-governmental organisations are demanding that the European Commission and national fisheries ministers adhere to ICES expert scientific recommendations for zero fishing of western Baltic herring and eastern Baltic cod for 2021, to end overfishing of all other species, and commit to increased focus on ecosystem and climate considerations.

<https://ccb.se/2020/05/baltic-sea-fish-stocks-remain-in-crisis-ngos-call-for-closures-of-herring-and-cod-stocks/>

NGOs welcome scientists' advice to halt bycatch of endangered Baltic Proper harbour porpoise

Posted by CCB on 26th May 2020

Scientists from the International Council for the Exploration (ICES) have published a landmark advice, warning the European Commission that immediate action is needed to protect two critically vulnerable marine mammals.

ICES has urged the Commission to introduce emergency measures to prevent the needless deaths of thousands of common dolphins in the Bay of Biscay and harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea, killed every year as bycatch in fishing nets.

Environmental groups welcome this advice, which follows action taken last year by 22 environmental groups, including Client Earth, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Seas At Risk, Coalition Clean Baltic, France Nature Environment, and IFAW.

<https://ccb.se/2020/05/ngos-welcome-scientists-advice-to-halt-bycatch-of-endangered-baltic-proper-harbour-porpoise/>

Lack of national political will is driving European seas to the brink

25th June 2020

CCB has posted it on their website

This is news on the EU report assessing progress with implementing the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In it Seas At Risk, ClientEarth, Coalition Clean Baltic, OceanCare and Surfrider Foundation Europe urge Member States to take immediate measures to address some of the most imminent threats to marine ecosystems, including – but not limited to – stopping overfishing and destructive fishing practices, closing the plastic pollution tap, protecting 30% of EU seas in highly or fully protected areas, stopping the flow of industrial, agricultural and household contaminated waters into the sea, banning offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation, reducing the speed of ships and ending container loss at sea.

<https://ccb.se/2020/06/lack-of-national-political-will-is-driving-european-seas-to-the-brink/>

Fisheries Secretariat wrote about the ICES advice for the Baltic for 2021

29th May 2020

<https://www.fishsec.org/2020/05/29/ices-advice-for-baltic-sea-quotas-in-2021/>

MSC on Poland herring and sprat midwater trawl and gillnet fishery in the Baltic

The BSAC received an e-mail from a certification body, SAI Global:

Dear Stakeholder,

You are receiving this email because you have been identified as a stakeholder in the above fishery. If you no longer wish to receive communications relating to this fishery please advise us of this and we will remove you from our stakeholder list.

SAI Global is pleased to announce the MSC assessment of the above fishery. SAI Global is the independent Certified Accreditation Body commissioned to carry out this assessment which will evaluate this fishery for compliance with the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

The scope of the assessment is further defined in the Fishery Announcement available on the MSC website (and attached here): <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/poland-herring-and-sprat-midwater-trawl-and-gillnet/@@view>

The first step in the MSC assessment involves a fishery stakeholder consultation process. Stakeholders are invited to, using the mechanism outlined in the Fishery Announcement and the attached Stakeholder Input into MSC Fishery assessments template, make written comment, provide information or nominate other organisations that should be contacted with respect to the assessment process. Prior to your becoming involved, SAI Global would encourage you to familiarise yourself with the MSC process using the resources provided on the MSC's website (<https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment>).

The FAO report about the state of the stocks 2020 SOFIA

The FAO flagship publication, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020, contains the key messages and main points from the publication and is aimed at the media, policy makers and a more general public. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9229en/online/ca9229en.html>

FAO publication on the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries-aquaculture (May 2020), conducted by the Regional Fisheries Bodies:

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/41242/en>

Denmark has revised its seal management plan

4th June 2020

Seals divide public opinion and perception. Commercial and recreational fishermen are tired of the fact that seals eat many fish; at the same time there are many who find seals attractive and they enjoy seeing them in natural surroundings. The seal management plan in Denmark has been revised. In 2016, an experimental scheme was put in place to hunt up to 40 grey seals around Bornholm. With this revision, the scheme is made permanent, and it will be easier to get permission to shoot seals. The news page is here:

<https://mst.dk/service/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2020/jun/revideret-saelforvaltningsplan-er-klar/>

The management plan is here:

<https://mst.dk/natur-vand/natur/artsleksikon/pattedyr/graasael/forvaltningsplan-for-saeler/>

The Danish Fishermen PO not satisfied with the revised seal management plan

9th June 2020

According to the DFPO (Thomas Thomsen from the organisation on Bornholm and Christiansø), the provision to hunt 40 seals a year around Bornholm is far from adequate, and they point out the fact that there are 40.000 – 50.000 grey seals in the Baltic. It should be possible to reduce the population to 10.000 seals, and this would require an international effort around the Baltic.

<https://fiskeriforening.dk/presse/pressemeddelelser/saelplagen-er-langt-fra-loest-med-ny-saelforvaltningsplan/>

The Danish newsletter Fiskerforum on the challenge of seals in Finland

17th June 2020

The newsletter reports on the situation in Finland, according to which seals are threatening the existence of the Finnish fisheries. According to the article, representatives of Finnish fisheries organisation CFAG/FLAGs have written to the Commissioner and underlined the important role that small scale coastal fisheries play in the Baltic and called for measures to deal with the seals. They are asking for the EU ban on the trade in seals and seal products to be lifted, so they can be traded throughout the EU and thereby reduce the seal population.

https://fiskerforum.dk/saelerne-truer-finske-kystfiskere-paa-deres-eksistens/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2020-06-18

Marine Ingredients reports: fish is good for your brain – in this case, of children!

22nd June 2020

A recent Danish study (Copenhagen University) shows that a high intake of fish by children can have a positive effect on children's learning abilities. They found a link between eating more fish and improved concentration and improved ability to solve problems. It's in Danish, but find it (news and article) here:

<https://maring.org/news-events/nyt-dansk-studie-fisk-styrker-boerns-hjerner/>

European anglers: it's time to acknowledge recreational fisheries as a key part of the blue economy

22nd June 2020

They refer to the EU Blue Economy Report 2020, giving an overview of the economic performance of different sectors relating to the marine environment. EAA say that the EU should recognise recreational fisheries as well as recreational angling tourism as key components of the blue economy and should acknowledge the decisive role that they can play to boost the continent's economic recovery. See their news here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14225/it-s-time-to-acknowledge-recreational-fisheries-as-a-key-part-of-the-blue-economy.html>

Baltic Sea 2020 report on algal booms in the Baltic

17th June 2020

Algal blooms have started to appear in the Baltic. It reports on news from the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, according to which, algal blooms have been seen outside the Gdansk Bay as well as east of Gotland. This is due to high temperatures and warmer seas. BS2020:

<https://www.smhi.se/nyhetsarkiv/start-av-cyanoblomning-i-ostersjon-1.161633>

The SMHI here:

<http://balticsea2020.org/bibliotek/34-information/808-nu-blommar-det-i-ostersjon>

What has Européche had to say lately? Three things:

1. On the FAO state of the fish stocks SOFIA

10th June 2020

It highlights that almost 80% of the fish consumed worldwide comes from sustainable stocks - Evidence shows that management is the best tool for conservation:

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/303635/almost-8025-of-the-fish-consumed-worldwide-comes-from-sustainable-stocks-evidenc>

2. On the EU biodiversity strategy

20th May 2020

It comments that the EU Biodiversity strategy ignores fisheries management achievements - The strategy puts at risk European food production

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/299956/eu-biodiversity-strategy-ignores-fisheries-management-achievements-the-strategy->

3. And on the STECF annual report on the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

7th May 2020

It reports that 50% more fish at sea in only ten years - Overfishing in the EU is at an all-time low – this brings excellent news for another year on the good progress on the state of EU fish stocks.

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/297925/5025-more-fish-at-sea-in-only-ten-years-overfishing-in-the-eu-is-at-an-all-time->