

Twelfth Annual Report of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council April 2018

Introduction

This annual report covers the activities and meetings of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council's (BSAC) twelfth year from 1st April 2017- 31st March 2018.

Representatives of the BSAC in 2017-2018 have included fisheries associations, producer organisations, processors, market and trade organisations, an organisation representing workers' rights, environmental NGOs, and recreational and sports fishermen. All Baltic Member States are represented.¹

The structure of the BSAC consists of a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, four Working Groups: for demersal fisheries, pelagic fisheries, salmon and sea trout and for ecosystem-based management. The demersal and pelagic working groups have been holding joint working groups since 2010, because they share issues of common interest. The salmon and sea trout working group has been inactive since 2012; issues relating to salmon were dealt during the year by the Working group for ecosystem-based management.²

Main results achieved by the BSAC during the year 2017 – 2018

Priority: Selectivity in the demersal fishery and the landing obligation

Results: Selectivity in the demersal fishery and the landing obligation were the subject of a specific workshop at the BSAC ExCom meeting on 7th November 2017, with invited experts taking part to tell about the trials that have been carried out in Denmark, Germany and Sweden, as well as further worked planned in i.a. Poland. The workshop agreed on three key conclusions which were presented to the BSAC to take action as appropriate. A subsequent output related to this workshop was a recommendation from the BSAC to amend the specifications of the T90 cod end (see below).

With respect to the landing obligation, BSAC members were able at the BALTFISH Forum meeting on 26th April 2017, held under the German presidency, to deliver general comments to the BALTFISH revised recommendations to the Landing Obligation, due for adoption on 1st January 2018, and to ask questions relating to the landing obligation in force. At the BSAC General Assembly on 7th May 2018, Joakim Hjelm, Head of the Institute of Marine Research, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, was invited as guest

¹ The list members of the BSAC for 2017 - 2018 is at the end of the Annual Report.

² The names of the relevant chairs and of those working for the Secretariat are given at the end.

speaker to give his personal reflection on the evolution of the landing obligation in the Baltic.

Priority: Multiannual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks, taking into account ecosystem interactions

Results: The BSAC is following developments on multispecies management and has agreed to contribute where necessary. There has been no need for own initiatives relating to this during the reporting year. Finland invited the BSAC to comment on a Commission proposal to amend the multiannual plan with respect to the Gulf of Bothnia. The BSAC did so and submitted its positive support to the proposal.

Multiannual multispecies management has been dealt with in the framework of the ICES 2017 advice for the Baltic fisheries and the Joint Working Group held in Klaipeda on 8th-9th June 2017 to discuss the advice and to develop BSAC recommendations for 2018. The BSAC recommendations for the fishery were elaborated by the ExCom at its meeting on 29th June 2017, and subsequently adopted and sent on 7th July 2017³, together with recommendations on technical measures. BSAC representatives presented the BSAC recommendations at the BALTFISH Forum on 31st August 2017, held by the Danish Presidency. During August 2017, the BSAC Secretariat developed a draft response to the Commission's Communication on Fishing Opportunities and completed it through written procedure, and sent it to the Commission on 6th September 2017.

Priority: Multiannual management of Baltic salmon

Results: In its recommendations on technical measures, sent during 2017, the BSAC reserved its position with respect to salmon and recommended to the Commission to give priority to work with a salmon multiannual plan.

The meeting of the BSAC Working group on ecosystem based management on 3rd October 2017 discussed in detail a revised draft of a BALTFISH salmon multiannual plan and the BSAC subsequently sent recommendations on salmon management plan to BALTFISH in November 2017.

Priority: The revision of the technical measures

Results: The revision of the technical measures regulations for the EU waters is work in progress. The BSAC has lamented the lack of progress on the technical measures dossier.

³ <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-recommendations-for-the-fishery-2018>

On 7th July 2017⁴ the BSAC sent a revised recommendation to reiterate its recommendations to give fishermen increased flexibility and better possibilities to modify the fishing gear used in demersal fisheries, whilst at the same time ensuring full accountability of what the fishermen catch. A second letter was addressed to BALTFISH in December 2017, as a follow up to the BSAC Workshop on selectivity in November 2017. On 8th March 2018 the BSAC proposed an amendment to the Commission Delegated Regulation 2018/47 on the technical specifications of the T90 codend. This recommendation has been addressed to both Commission and BALTFISH.

Priority: Ecosystem based management

Results: A meeting of the Working group on ecosystem based management took place on 3rd October 2017. The two main agenda items were the draft salmon management plan, produced by Finland in the BALTFISH cooperation and seals. A draft set of recommendations on salmon was the output from this group.

Priority: Recreational fisheries

Results: Recreational fisheries was dealt with at a Joint BSAC BALTFISH Workshop on recreational fishery for cod in the Baltic Sea organised together with the Danish BALTFISH Presidency on 29th January 2018. The workshop took note of several presentations, which provided background information on the recreational fishery and referred to the work being done to further include data from the recreational fisheries. No decision has been taken by the BSAC to create its own working group on recreational fisheries. The BSAC has asked the BALTFISH Presidency what plans it has to engage in further work, before drawing any further conclusions.

The BSAC was invited at short notice by the Commission Director General to provide input on possible ways forward to improve the situation of European eel. The BSAC delivered a response, notably in recommending work towards the development of a pan-European eel management/recovery plan.

The BSAC has also taken part in consultations, initiated by the Commission (Post 2020 funding and Implementation of the Landing Obligation) and by HELCOM (The second holistic assessment of the Baltic HOLAS II). The Secretariat has taken the initiative to invite responses from the BSAC ExCom members.

⁴ <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-recommendations-on-technical-measures-for-the>

The meetings held by the BSAC 2017 -2018:

BSAC BALTFISH pre-meeting (before BALTFISH Forum 26th April 2017), Berlin

BSAC participants discussed and noted general comments to be made from the BSAC to the BALTFISH Forum meeting 26th April 2017, especially to the draft revised BALTFISH recommendation on the Landing Obligation for the Baltic. The creation of a possible BALTFISH website was also discussed, but no conclusions were reached by the meeting. It was agreed to inform the BALTFISH Forum of the discussions held and of the need for transparency of BALTFISH activities under regionalization. It was also agreed to discuss this at a coming ExCom meeting with a view to drafting a recommendation to encourage BALTFISH to give further thought to this. (A recommendation was subsequently drafted and sent).

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-BALTFISH-pre-meeting>

BSAC Executive Committee and General Assembly, 11th May 2017, Stockholm

During the ExCom, the Secretariat presented the draft financial statement for the year 2016-2017, the draft 11th annual report, as well as the draft work programme and draft budget for the year 2017-2018 for approval. These were all approved for recommendation to the General Assembly.

Referring to the BSAC work programme, the ExCom discussed recreational fisheries for cod. A representative of the Danish government informed the meeting that a workshop on recreational fisheries, to be organised together with the BSAC, was foreseen in the preliminary workplan of the Danish presidency of BALTFISH (from 1.7.2017).

The ExCom decided to recommend to the General Assembly an amendment of the BSAC statutes to have the possibility to extend the ExCom to 30 members and to include the requirement to pay the membership fee by a deadline. The ExCom did not reach agreement on additional compensation to small scale representatives and decided to revert to this at its meeting on 29th June 2017. The ExCom did not reach a decision on the nomination of Andrzej Białas (OCEANA) as vice chair; it decided to revert to this at a coming meeting. The ExCom unanimously approved Nils Höglund (CCB) as chair of the BSAC Working group on ecosystem-based management. The proposal for a protocol guiding BSAC representation in external fora and explained its contents was discussed. The ExCom concluded on BSAC external representation at meetings to continue good practices and dialogue. The ExCom did not reach agreement on the protocol.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-General-Assembly/ReportExCom11052017FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

The BSAC honorary chair opened the General Assembly meeting and referred to several challenges encountered in the past year, such as the further reduction of cod quotas and continued problems with the scientific assessments, enforcement of the landing obligation, lack of a long term management plan for salmon and the continued increased population of seals with their negative impact on fisheries. Sara Colliander, Fisheries Director for Sweden welcomed the BSAC to Stockholm and underlined that cooperation at all levels is the key for a successful implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. Cooperation within BALTFISH is still quite new and is a steep learning curve. Joakim Hjelm from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences gave his personal reflection of the evolution of the landing obligation in the Baltic. Reine Johansson, BSAC Chair presented the annual report for the BSAC year 2016-2017 and the key areas of work during the year: the technical measures selectivity and the landing obligation.

The General Assembly approved the draft annual report and the draft annual accounts for 2016-2017 and took note of reports from the working groups for the year 2016-2017. It also took note of and approved the proposed work programme and draft estimated budget for 2017-2018. The General Assembly approved the continuation of the current certified auditor for the 2017-2018 accounts. The General Assembly approved the membership of the Association of Fisheries Protection to the Executive Committee (thereby extending it to 26 members).

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-General-Assembly/BSACGenAssreport110517FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BSAC Joint Working Group meeting 13th-14th June 2016, Klaipeda

The ICES/ACOM chair Eskild Kirkegaard presented to the WG the ICES advice for the Baltic for 2018, starting with the rules for the advice on fishing opportunities in relation to the specified management objectives and the different stock categories. After the presentation, including questions and answers, the floor was opened for discussion and the initial development of draft BSAC recommendations for the fishery for 2018. Different views on the advice and the fishing opportunities were noted. Western cod is at present the weakest stock and it emerged as the subject which took most time to discuss and clarify in formulating a recommendation for 2018. The Secretariat was asked to produce, after the meeting, draft BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2018 for further development and finalisation at the forthcoming ExCom meeting on 29th June 2017.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group/BSACJointWG7-8062017ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BSAC Executive Committee, 29th June 2017, Copenhagen

The ExCom took note of the expenditure incurred in the first months of the year 2017-2018. The ExCom discussed a text with draft BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic

for 2018. A revised text was subsequently sent to the ExCom for final written approval before being sent to the Commission and Member States. The BSAC recommendations were sent to the Commission and Baltic Member States on 7th July 2017.

The ExCom took note of the information on the priorities for the Estonian Presidency for the second half of 2017.

The ExCom discussed the transparency of BALTFISH activities and decided to encourage the Danish Presidency to consider whether there should be a BALTFISH page on the ministry website and to decide what resources to allocate to that and how to coordinate it with subsequent BALTFISH presidencies.

The ExCom took note of the Joint Recommendation of the BALTFISH High Level Group for the Landing Obligation for 2018 and underlined the need for flexibility and better possibilities to modify the fishing gear used in demersal fisheries in order to comply with the landing obligation.

The ExCom decided to run a pilot project with additional compensation for max. 2 representatives from small scale fisheries per meeting in the current BSAC financial year.

The discussions concerning the election of the candidate for vice chair were inconclusive; the ExCom agreed to table the point until a coming meeting.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-\(1\)/BSACreportExCom290617FINAL-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-(1)/BSACreportExCom290617FINAL-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

BSAC BALTFISH pre-meeting (before BALTFISH Forum), 31st August 2017, Copenhagen

The meeting agreed on who would present the BSAC recommendations for the Baltic fishery for 2018 to the BALTFISH Forum. The meeting also discussed at length the management of eel, in the context of the Commission's proposal for a Council Regulation on fishing opportunities for the Baltic, which included a ban on fishing for European eel. The meeting agreed to send to BALTFISH and DG Mare the BSAC proposals for measures to improve the state of European eel. The meeting also discussed recreational fishery for cod, the forthcoming work to prepare a BSAC response to the draft multiannual plan for salmon, follow up work on joint recommendations for the landing obligation and new gear. It also took note of an update on the BALTFISH work programme under the Danish BALTFISH Presidency.

Link to the report :

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-pre-meeting-for-BALTFISH/BSACReportPremeetingtBaltfishForum310817FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BSAC Working group on ecosystem based management, 3rd October 2017, Copenhagen

The meeting had discussions on interaction between seals and fisheries and on the latest version of the draft BALTFISH salmon multiannual plan. Anders Galatius, PhD, Senior scientist, Biologist, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Section for Marine Mammal Research presented the work on monitoring and management of seals by HELCOM. He noted that there is little common ground in HELCOM with respect to management measures. Peter Ljungberg, PhD, Research assistant, Department of Aquatic resources, Institute of coastal research, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences presented work being done on the development of seal proof gear. The sub-group agreed on the need for continuation of and money in research and science in collaboration with fishers to develop new gears that are seal safe. Various other measures and initiatives were discussed, but not agreed on. The group also discussed in detail the revised draft of the BALTFISH salmon multiannual plan. The group agreed to send a summary of the discussions on salmon from the meeting to BALTFISH.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-and-sub-group-on-ecosystem-bas/BSACreportEBMsubgroup031017EXCEPTSALMONFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

Section reporting on salmon:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-and-sub-group-on-ecosystem-bas/ReportEBMSubgroup031017SALMONFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BSAC Executive Committee, 7th November 2017, Gdynia

A workshop on selectivity in the demersal fishery was held in the framework of the ExCom meeting. Experts were invited to take part and contribute with experience and knowledge on selectivity in the trawl fishery and on technical measures. Daniel Stepputtis and Chris Zimmermann, Thünen-Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries, Jordan Feekings, DTU Aqua, National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Hans Nilsson Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Waldemar Moderhak, formerly NMFRI, and Piotr Nowakowski, Maritime University Szczecin gave presentations.

The workshop recognised the urgent need to improve the selectivity of cod trawls in view to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation, the need to implement short-term solutions (the Swedish proposal to BALTFISH for alternative specifications of the T90 codend and the BSAC proposed reduction of the mesh sizes in Bacoma and T90 from 120 mm to 110 m), the need to establish a regional platform for gear development. EMFF funding could be used as a possible source of financing for gear development and testing.

Under the ExCom business, Andrzej Białas, OCEANA was unanimously elected by the ExCom as vice-chair. The ExCom discussed the recommendations to the BALTFISH draft Salmon Multiannual Plan as presented and proposed some amendments. The ExCom adopted the BSAC recommendations to the BALTFISH draft Salmon Multiannual Plan.

Link to the meeting report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting/BSACreportExCom07112017FINALrev6122017.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

Joint BALTFISH BSAC workshop on recreational fishery for cod in the Baltic Sea, 29th January 2018, Copenhagen

46 participants from the Baltic Sea EU Member States (BALTFISH, chaired by the Danish BALTFISH Presidency), the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC), a representative from the European Commission (DG Mare), and scientists met in Copenhagen on 29th January 2018 at a Joint BSAC BALTFISH Workshop on recreational fishery for cod in the Baltic Sea. The workshop took note of several presentations, which provided background information on the recreational fishery and also referred to the work being done to further include data from the recreational fisheries. A series of questions was discussed by break out groups and their findings and conclusions presented in plenum. In summing up from the workshop, the participants agreed that recreational fishing is an important part of the Baltic fishery and it adopted summary conclusions, as well as a full report after the workshop.

Link to the report and summary conclusions:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Joint-BALTFISH-BSAC-workshop-on-recreational-fishe/BALTFISHBSACWorkshoprecreationalfisheries290118FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BSAC Executive Committee meeting, 30th January 2018

The ExCom took note of the expenditure incurred in the year 2017-2018 until 31st December 2017. The ExCom adopted the draft estimated budget 2018-2019 and the work programme for 2018 – 2019, amended according to the agreed discussions by the ExCom.

The ExCom discussed the proposal to create a working group to deal with recreational cod fisheries in the western Baltic and decided to send a letter to the BALTFISH Presidency asking whether they plan to engage in the work on the management of recreational fisheries in the future. On receipt of their answer, the BSAC will draw its conclusion.

Christian Bisgaard, Member of the Saria Management Committee presented “Collection of discard in European ports”. Several fisheries representative expressed interest in the by-catch collecting system as a possible way of utilising unwanted catches and welcomed the prospect of further discussion at national level and within the organisations.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-\(2\)/BSACExCom300118ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-(2)/BSACExCom300118ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

BSAC Secretariat meetings

19th December 2017: Reine J. Johansson, Andrzej Bialas, Ewa Milewska, Sally Clink

16th March 2018 (for IT maintenance and work planning): Ewa Milewska and Sally Clink

External meetings during the year where BSAC members took part:⁵

BALTFISH Forum 26th April 2017, Berlin: Reine J. Johansson, Pehr Eriksson, Glenn Douglas, Jan Isakson, Nils Höglund, Michael Andersen, Steve Karnicki, Staffan Larsson, Sally Clink, Ewa Milewska

BALTFISH Forum 31st August 2017, Copenhagen: Reine J. Johansson, Andrzej Bialas, Jan Isakson, Wolfgang Albrecht, Nils Höglund, Michael Andersen, Peter Breckling, Steve Karnicki, Staffan Larsson, Ewa Milewska

HELCOM Group on ecosystem-based sustainable fisheries FISH 6 22nd-24th May 2017, Helsinki: Malin Lönnroth and Nils Höglund

European Fisheries Control Agency 5 year evaluation and Administrative Board meeting 20th and 21st June 2017, Vigo: Staffan Larsson (replacing the BSAC chair)

Commission organised EU Russia meetings, 3rd-6th July 2017, Brussels: Krzysztof Stanuch

MareFrame project meeting 30th August 2017, Copenhagen: Reine Johansson, Michael Andersen and Sally Clink

EFCA Advisory Board meeting 20th September 2017, Vigo: Staffan Larsson (replacing the BSAC chair)

Commission organised State of the Stocks meeting 25th September 2017, Brussels: Michael Andersen and Andrzej Bialas

FARNET conference 12th-13th October 2017, Tallinn: Mart Undrest

INSPIRE Annual meeting and BONUS Symposium 15th – 17th October 2017, Tallinn: Pehr Eriksson and Sally Clink

Commission Inter-ACs meeting (annual meeting with the Advisory Councils) 14th November 2017, Brussels: Michael Andersen (replacing the BSAC chair), Andrzej Bialas, Sally Clink and Ewa Milewska

⁵ Reports from BSAC members and/or the Secretariat are available from the Secretariat

Commission Seminar on the Landing Obligation 15th November 2017, Brussels: Michael Andersen, Andrzej Bialas, Sally Clink and Ewa Milewska

Commission Workshop on the Control Regulation 16th November 2017, Brussels: Michael Andersen, Andrzej Bialas, Sally Clink and Ewa Milewska

HELCOM eel workshop FISH-M 5 2017, 29th November -1st December 2017, Stockholm: Michael Andersen and Lindsay Keenan

MareFrame Final meeting 13th -14th December 2017, Brussels: Michael Andersen, Lindsay Keenan and Sally Clink

Eurofish Annual Governing Council 1st February 2018, Copenhagen: Sally Clink

ICES annual meetings with the Advisory Councils (ICES-ACs pre-meeting and with stakeholders (MIACO) 18th – 19th January 2018, Copenhagen: Reine J. Johansson, Michael Andersen, Andrzej Bialas and Sally Clink

ICES cod workshop WKIDEBCA 23rd -25th January 2018, Copenhagen: Michael Andersen and Lindsay Keenan

LIFE Workshop on Exchange of best practice “a determined SSFs community & added value for SSFs from the markets” 6th – 7th February Thorup Strand: Sally Clink

EFCA Advisory Board meeting 23rd February Brussels Lindsay Keenan and Staffan Larsson

Scientific experts invited to BSAC meetings during the year

BSAC General Assembly, Stockholm 7th May 2017: Joakim Hjelm

BSAC working group on ecosystem based management, Copenhagen 3rd October 2017: Anders Galatius and Peter Lovbjerg

BSAC ExCom workshop on selectivity, Gdynia 7th November 2017: Jordan Feekings, Hans Nilsson, Chris Zimmerman, Daniel Stepputtis, Piotr Nowakowski, Waldemar Moderhak,

BSAC BALTFISH workshop on recreational fisheries, Copenhagen 29th January 2018: Marie (Rie) Storr Poulsen, Harry Strehlow, Joakim Hjelm, Hans Jakob Olesen

Keeping the BSAC members informed

BSAC members have received a monthly newsletter from the BSAC Secretariat. There has been a total of 11 during the year.

Members of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council as on 31st March 2018

The Fishermen's Association of Bornholm and Christiansø	Union of German Cutter Fishery	Sweden Pelagic Federation PO (SPF)
Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation	Association of Fisheries Protection (Fischereischutzverband)	Swedish Fishermen's Federation
Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation	Latvian Fisheries Association	The Swedish Cod Fishermen's Producer Organisation
Marine Ingredients Denmark	Lithuanian Fisheries Producers' Association	Åland Islands Fishermen's Association
Denmark Pelagic Producers Organisation	The Confederation of Fishermen and Fish Processors of West Lithuania	Fishermen's Federation for Small-Scale Fishery in Sweden
Estonian Fishermen's Association	Association of Fishermen's of Sea-PO	European Transport Workers' Federation
Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations	National Chamber of Fish Producers	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association - Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish
Finnish Fishermen's Association (Sumonen Ammattikalastajaliitto)	Kołobrzeg Group of Producers Fish	OCEANA
Bundesverband der Deutschen Fishindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels E.V.	Polish Association of Fish Processors	Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
German Cutter-and Coastal-Fishermen's Association	Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Shipowners	German Angling Association

Fisheries management Gotland, regional co- management of fisheries
Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation
The Fisheries Secretariat
BalticSea 2020
Coalition Clean Baltic
European Anglers Alliance
CIPS International Confederation for Sport Fishing
World Wide Fund for Nature
Polish Ecological Club
The Environmental Defense Fund

Changes to membership during the year

The Fishermen's Association for Bornholm and Christiansø: Bent Pedersen stopped substitute for Thomas Thomsen on the Executive Committee. He was replaced by Michael Andersen.

Swedish Fishermen Producer Organisation: Björn Lindblad retired on 28th April 2017 and was replaced by Anton Paulrud.

The Fisheries Secretariat: got a new substitute on the ExCom: Lindsay Keenan

Baltic Sea 2020: Mogens Schou left. Conrad Stralka took over as BS2020 representative to the BSAC

Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation: Ellen Bruno left for a new job. We are waiting to hear who her replacement on the BSAC will be.

The Environmental Defense Fund: Jessica Landman left the ExCom, the membership of the EDF ended 31st March 2018

Applications

The Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery (FSK): applied for membership towards the end of the year 2017-2018. Their membership is included from 1st April 2018.

Dansk Amatørfiskerforening/Dansk Fritidsfiskerforbund (DADF: Danish Association for Recreational Fisheries): applied for membership towards the end of the year 2017-2018. Their membership is included from 1st April 2018.

The BSAC chairs and Secretariat

Chairperson of the BSAC

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Provision of meeting rooms

The BSAC Secretariat gives its sincere thanks for the provision of meeting rooms this year to: the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (for the BSAC BALTFISH pre-meeting on 26th April 2017), the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden (for hosting the Executive Committee and General Assembly on 11th May 2017) and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Poland (for the Executive Committee meeting on 7th November 2017)