

Dear members,

We're near the end of another BSAC year: 2020-2021. So a very happy New Year and thank you for the year that's gone by. Despite being in the shadow of COVID, we've managed to keep the show on the road.

We say goodbye to BSAC member Fisheries Management Gotland, regional co-management of fisheries. Thanks for the collaboration.

Yes, yes, we always ask members for contributions to this newsletter. We almost never hear from anyone. But we have a look at your websites for relevant news, especially Baltic related, and we include further down.

BSAC news and meetings

The concluding BSAC meeting: Implementation and revision of the CFP with a Baltic perspective Wednesday 24th March 2021

After holding three dedicated sessions to deal with various topics related to proposals that the BSAC can make to a revised Commission Fisheries Policy, this final meeting gave the BSAC ExCom chair the chance to bring it all together and for the Chairs of the Sessions to give short summaries of the work. There were topics on which there was lively discussion: ecosystem based management, regionalisation, data collection and use of data in improving the advisory process, and recreational fisheries. The German MEP Niclas Herbst who works hard on the PECH Committee to represent fisheries, attended the meeting and said some very positive words about the BSAC and the contribution it makes. 😊. A report from this meeting is already on the way. And soon a Drafting Group will start on a white paper from the BSAC with proposals for changes/improvements/wishes for future CFP implementation. We want volunteers. You can read the very nice reports from the three BSAC CFP Sessions here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Further-work-on-developing-input-to-the-CFP>

An observer also contributed to the discussions with a link to a paper dealing with how to improve the ecosystem approach to fisheries management - just how to put it all together when there is so much involved, but also pushing. The Paper is by Ramirez-Monsalve et al:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Further-work-on-developing-input-to-the-CFP/Ramirez-Monsalve\(2021\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Further-work-on-developing-input-to-the-CFP/Ramirez-Monsalve(2021).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

BSAC is starting its the new year on 1st April 2021

Strange time to start a new year when the flowers are starting to blossom!

DG Mare has informed us that everything in our application was accepted from their side. They are now awaiting the additional credits (which will come with the adoption of the EMFAF – June). Formal approval of closure of the old and start of the new BSAC years will be by written procedure in May.

A very special Executive Committee meeting with EFCA + ICES confirmed Thursday 6th May 2021

EFCA and ICES have confirmed that they will take part at this meeting. BSAC members have already been asked to sign up AND to send in questions. You can find the letter from the ExCom Chair here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-meeting-with-EFCA>

MEMBERS: Deadline for sending in stuff/questions is **Tuesday 6th April 2021**.

Please register for the meeting by Thursday 22nd April 2021, find the invitation and draft agenda here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-meeting-with-EFCA>

No physical BSAC ExCom and General Assembly meetings in May this year

Due to covid, the BSAC will follow the same procedure as last year: the approval of annual report and expenditure for the year ended 31.3.21, and the adoption of the draft estimated budgeted and work programme for the new year will be done by written procedure and use of voting slip. The Executive Committee has been consulted and accepted to extend their term of office until a physical meeting can take place in September for elections to take place. The Honorary Chair and ExCom Chair have also accepted to do this.

A BSAC Joint Working Group to hear the ICES Advice for the Baltic fisheries for 2021 Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th June 2021

ICES ACOM Vice-Chair Colm Lordan has accepted the invitation to take part at this annual BSAC meeting to deal with the ICES advice for the Baltic fisheries. The ICES advice is released on Friday 28th May 2021. An invitation will follow and the Demersal and Pelagic Working Group Chairs will be co-chairing this meeting.

There WILL be a real Executive Committee and General Assembly on Wednesday 22nd September

Please note the date. This is an important one. There will be all the elections. We've tentatively booked meeting rooms at the Danish Food and Agriculture Council, so it's wonderful Copenhagen.

www.bsac.dk has all the dates and details.

What BSAC member organisations have been reporting on in March

The Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery PO on beam trawling

Together with representatives of LIFE, FSK PO met with the Commission to express their concerns about the effects of beam trawling. It's not a Baltic piece of news (the concerns focus on fishery in Skagerrak), but FSK PO is a Baltic organisation too.

19th March 2021

https://fiskerforum.dk/kystfiskerne-har-haft-moede-med-eu-kommissionen-omkring-bomtrawl/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_nyhedsopdatering_ugentlig&utm_term=2021-03-19

Other news from FSP PO is here:

<http://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/nyheder/>

Coalition Clean Baltic and WWF together – on saving the Baltic Sea

17th March 2021

They've been encouraging HELCOM to deliver a rigorous Baltic Sea Action Plan - that's because on March 17th and 18th there was the 42nd meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (who meet once a year) – and this time in connection with ongoing work to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Some quotes from prominent people in both organisations encouraging concrete actions, change, and commitment on this. Plus a film:

<https://ccb.se/2021/03/ambition-concrete-actions-and-commitment-key-elements-to-save-the-baltic-sea/>

And in their view, HELCOM has an important role to play in giving a political message from the region and to influence global and EU targets; HELCOM should have the ambition to be a front runner as a region in tackling biodiversity and climate issues.

Making friends: Danish Fishermen PO on its meeting and agreement with Danish Society for Nature Conservation >>>> going together for the sea (with quayside photo)

There's no date in the press release, but mid-March 2021

DFPO have recently agreed on a cooperation between the Danish fishers and the Danish Society for Nature Conservation. They've agreed on a recommendation to create completely protected areas in the Danish North Sea, Skagerrak and the Baltic - the Baltic areas are around Bornholm. It's not been implemented. It's an advice. They've prepared and shared (thank you) a short document in English explaining the whys and whats, where the areas are and what kind of habitats there are. And there are maps to show them.

LINKS: to two things:

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

This news is big, it's also in Danish here:

16th March 2021

https://fiskeritidende.dk/nyheder/fiskeri/2021/marts/samarbejde-sikrer-balance-mellem-beskyttelse-og-benyttelse/?utm_source=youngcrm&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=Nyhedsbrev+uge+11+2021

And here:

17th March 2021

https://fiskeritidende.dk/nyheder/fiskeri/2021/marts/naturforening-og-fiskere-i-historisk-udspil/?utm_source=youngcrm&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=Nyhedsbrev+uge+11+2021

And there's praise in Danish on the initiative from the two Danish Ministers (fisheries and environment) who were also witnessing the event:

18th March 2021

https://fiskeritidende.dk/nyheder/fiskeri/2021/marts/fiskeriminister-og-miljoeminister-stor-kadeau-for-at-finde-loesninger/?utm_source=youngcrm&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=Nyhedsbrev+uge+11+2+2021

DFPO also have words to say about the newly presented Marine Plan for Denmark

26th March 2021

They've got big expectations about the plan which was put forward by the government on the marine area and its use. DFPO refer to their recent agreement with Danish Society for Nature Conservation on protected areas. But the government proposal comes at a time when the sector is under pressure, due to Brexit and reduced quotas. There's also competition out there at sea for the use of the marine space. So DFPO want to make sure that the Danish Marine Plan guarantees the Danish fisheries and the marine environment in the future. In Danish:

<https://fiskeriforening.dk/presse/pressemeddelelser/havplanen-skal-baade-fremtidssikre-det-danske-fiskeri-og-havmiljoe/>

Danish Pelagic PO and their brochure on herring and gastronomy – for the chefs

Heard of a moodboard? It's a kind of collage with pictures, text, colours and objects to serve as inspiration. DPPO have made use of it to create a glossy A4 booklet with focus on herring: not a fish you normally associate with gastronomy, but with an ageing population (the oldies in Denmark like their marinated herring), there's a need to look for new consumers. By reaching out to the chefs, the aim is to create new and innovative ways of preparing and serving this nutritious fish which really is the superfood on the North Sea (and others). The booklet, in Danish, tells you about herring, its history and cultural importance, as well as its taste, how to prepare it and what to serve with it. A couple of recipes thrown in, but this booklet is NOT for the average consumer. Interested anyway? Contact:

<http://www.dppo.dk/kontakt>

By the way, it's Easter, and Danish shopping trolleys will be filling up with fish of different sorts for the Easter lunches, celebrated with families and friends (numbers restricted by COVID). One type of herring – marinated herring in curry sauce - is a big favourite, called granddad sushi! That really sets the standard, doesn't it? The Danish newspaper Politiken gives Irma's curried herring top score in its Easter tasting. Here's yellow screenshot – no Easter without curried herring!



Sportsfiskarna (part of the European Anglers Alliance) sound the alarm over increasing numbers of cormorants along coast of western Gotland

Can't remember the date of this.

They report on results from data gathered by Swedish University of Agriculture and experienced ornithologists. Numbers of cormorants doubled between 2012 and 2020. And they're moving into waterways and inland waters.

<https://www.fiskejournalen.se/fordubbling-av-antalet-skarvbon-men-nu-blir-det-jakt/>

And recalling the EAA position paper on cormorants here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/positions/cormorants-2020.html>

And here comes some news on a Nordic cooperation on cormorants

Fiskerforum 5th March 2021

Reporting from a meeting on 10th and 11th February 2021

SW, DK, FIN, NWY: To go together and develop a strong Nordic cooperation on management and regulation on cormorants.

https://fiskerforum.dk/nordisk-samarbejde-vigtigt-for-bedre-faelles-forvaltning-af-skarv/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-03-18

European Anglers Alliance on revision of the EU Fisheries Control Regulation

5th March 2021

The EAA state that it's the last chance to make it right. Whilst praising the adoption of some of the recommendations from the EAA, there are still some bits missing. They regret the failure to adopt a mandatory approach to having CCTV on board, as well as the weaker rules on reporting and controlling catches and landings. See all the news and links here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14682/fisheries-control-revision-last-chance-for-the-european-parliament-to-make-it-right.html>

EAA on the Next Recreational Fishing Forum Event: Objective 30%: why involving recreational anglers is key for the success of Marine Protected Areas

25th March 2021

This will be on 20th April 2021

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14720/next-recfishing-forum-event-objective-30-why-involving-recreational-anglers-is-key-for-the-success-of-marine-protected-areas.html>

EAA give an update on: “can the EU afford not to include recreational fisheries in the EU?”

26th March 2021

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14725/updated-including-marine-recreational-fisheries-in-the-cfp-can-the-eu-afford-not-to.html>

Did you know that the Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations has updated its map with all its fishing areas?

25th March 2021

Work that began in 2019 is completed:

<https://ahven.net/tiedotteet/2021/03/25/kalatalousalueet-kartalla/>

The Finnish Fishermen's Association have completed the MSC audit of their herring and sprat trawl and angler fishery

25th March 2021

They inform that this was a laborious and difficult process because of the state of the herring stock in the Baltic main basin. Harmonising with other Baltic MS certificates added to the work – working closely with DK, GER, EST and SW. In English:

<http://sakl.fi/msc-sertifikaatti-pysyy-voimassa/>

The Fisheries Secretariat on bottom trawling and its release of carbon dioxide

25th March 2021

They report on a report (17th March) from the Nature: Protecting the global ocean for biodiversity, food and climate-There's a summary by Fisheries Secretariat, explaining the effects of bottom trawling.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/03/25/bottom-trawling-release-as-much-carbon-dioxide-as-air-traffic/>

Link to the abstract in Nature:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03371-z>

The Fisheries Secretariat on the state of the stocks

19th March

They share the 2020 report from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU. Several freshwater species in Swedish lakes are on the increase, and the majority of marine species such as haddock, plaice and sprat in the North Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea have shown a positive stock development. Other marine species are in a worse state: cod in the eastern Baltic and Kattegat, spring spawning herring, as well as negative trends for pike along the coast. The SLU report is in Swedish. The information here is in English:

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/03/19/more-fish-in-swedish-lakes-marine-populations-in-decline/>

Fisheries Secretariat reports on the money going to fisheries in Denmark for 2021-2023

18th March

Here they pick up on the reporting from the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries on funding from the new EMFAF for the fisheries sector for 21-23:

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/03/18/danish-fisheries-receive-123-million-euros-from-eu-fisheries-fund/>

Fisheries Secretariat view on the vote on the European Parliament proposal for the fisheries control regulation, which they say is a giant step backwards

11th March 2021

There are two steps forward, they state: welcoming the positive steps by the EP towards more transparent fisheries and traceable seafood. However, the step backwards refer to is the decision to backtrack on accurate reporting of seafood catches. They refer to a Commission warning that the 40-50% of catches missing from fishers' logbooks could jeopardise the recovery of fish stocks in European seas, putting the future of fisheries at risk and stands in stark contrast to the goals of the European Green Deal.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/03/11/european-parliament-votes-for-modern-and-transparent-fisheries-but-opens-grave-loop-hole/>

By the way, the Fisheries Secretariat is member of the so-called EU Fisheries Control Coalition. Nine NGOs working together to ensure transparent fisheries and traceable seafood supply chains in the EU:

<http://www.transparentfisheries.org/>

That's only some of the news stream from Fisheries Secretariat. Sign up for their newsletter here:

<https://www.fishsec.org/news/>

German Cutter and Coastal-Fishermen's Association + Union of German Cutter Fishery from "fischerblatt" number 2, 2021: current situation in the Baltic Sea fisheries

The magazine includes an article which paints a gloomy picture of how things are for German Baltic fisheries 2021. The herring trawl fishery is limited by the very low quota; it hasn't really begun yet - some fishing in January; since then harbours have been blocked by ice. In the western Baltic there's been some cod and dab fishery, but prices lower than last year. Cod fishing in SDs 22+23, but this year not possible to fish small pelagics, so there's some fishery for flatfish, including flounder. There's mention of the aid scheme available due to COVID, but it involves a fair bit of paperwork, as well as temporary cessation under the EMFF, and at the same time waiting for the new EMFAF to enter into force. The outlook for the Baltic fisheries is uncertain, due to the current quota situation.

Marine Ingredients report that fish stocks in Northern Europe are in a positive development

24th March 2021

MI start with the bad news: globally, there are still over fished stocks (referring to Black Sea, Med, S.E. Asia, Africa and international waters. But efforts to tackle IUU fishing are bearing fruit, and this has contributed to the positive development in Europe. They refer to recent STECF reporting. Today 63% of European stocks are fished according to scientific advice, and in the Baltic this applies to 6 out of 7 stocks. MI go on to report on the growth in aquaculture and the supplies and processes involved in producing fish meal and fish oil for aquaculture. In Danish:

<https://maring.org/news-events/nordeuropas-fiskebestande-er-i-fremgang/>

There's some news on Swedish Fishermen PO on seal hunting

26th March 2021

Fishermen are tired of their catch being eaten and have therefore applied for protection hunting. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has given permission to shoot a total of 25 harbor seals. But the fishermen notice how sensitive the issue is in Skåre. In Swedish:

<https://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/skyddsjakt-pa-knubbsalar-nu-tillatet-i-skare>

Here's the information on the decision on licence hunting for grey seals and protection hunting for harbor seals. The decision allows for licence hunting for grey seals and protection hunting for harbor seals, with details of where and conditions attached. In Swedish:

<https://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/beslut-om-licensjakt-efter-grasal-samt-beslut-om-skyddsjakt-efter-knubbsal-och-vikare>

Swedish Pelagic Federation PO – check out their Facebook page

Some great photos taken during March of vessels, fish products and fish foods ready to eat. Kept updated:

<https://www.facebook.com/SPF.PO/>

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

No meetings planned with stakeholders, but a short update on measures planned for protection of harbour porpoise

BALTFISH has already sent its first Joint Recommendations for measures to protect harbour porpoise. BALTFISH met at its High Level Group early March, and plans to meet again mid April. They expect to have a second Joint Recommendation for harbour porpoise in place early May. This should focus on areas in the Baltic where to apply pingers (or ADDs), and include control measures which are linked to the control of the mitigation measures. BALTFISH has to submit its second Joint Recommendation no later than 1 June 2021, and endeavor to agree on more detailed control measures. Feedback from the BSAC will be invited, and BSAC will revert to this after Easter.

Meanwhile, the Commission has introduced emergency measures for the harbour porpoise, though these are not yet finalized.

Commission news and meetings

The next Inter-ACs meeting – the ACs meet DG Mare 5th May 2021

This will be from **14:30 to 18:30**. More details on the meeting and the agenda to follow.

But please see this letter from DG Mare Director General:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Inter-ACs-meeting>

In it she refers to better planning and more Inter AC meetings, and other follow-up actions, as well as participation of UK stakeholders in the ACs.

In the pipeline: an EU study on 'Regionalisation of the CFP'

This is a notification that came to us from the research institute ILVO, Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: They write: We would like to inform you about a study on "Regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)" commissioned by the EC. This study, conducted by two consortia, recently started and will last until January 2022. Wageningen Marine Research leads Lot 1 and MRAG Europe Limited takes the lead for Lot 2. The objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive overview of the CFP regionalisation's functioning process. The study team will be collecting information and consulting with stakeholders at EU and national levels to obtain an improved understanding of how regionalisation has functioned until now and in what way it has contributed to better fisheries management. DG MARE and EASME attach great importance to the successful outcome of this study. BSAC ExCom has been informed and will be invited to take part.

The official support letter by DGMARE/EASME - and annex is here (so two things):

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

Public consultation on the establishment of a contingency plan for food supply and food security in the EU.

The initiative is coordinated by DG AGRI, but is obviously highly relevant for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well. DG MARE and SANTE are co-leading the initiative with DG AGRI. DG Mare encourage the Advisory Councils and their members to participate in the consultation and to further disseminate the information on the consultation as deemed appropriate. Deadline to reply: 3rd May 2021

The attached letter provides more detail. Link:

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

The questionnaire is in the letter, but it's also here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/11b0c288-4b48-261f-e611-653c49d6467e>

A consultation on Sustainable products legislative initiative

It will aim to make products fit for a climate neutral, resource efficient and circular economy, reduce waste and ensure that the performance of frontrunners in sustainability progressively becomes the norm.

This initiative, which will revise the Ecodesign Directive and propose additional legislative measures as appropriate, aims to make products placed on the EU market more sustainable. Consumers, the environment

and the climate will benefit from products that are more durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable, and energy-efficient. The initiative will also address the presence of harmful chemicals in products such as:

- electronics & ICT equipment
- textiles
- furniture
- steel, cement & chemicals.

Deadline 9th June 2021

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12567-Sustainable-Products-Initiative/public-consultation>

Commission DGENV meeting on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive held its so-called Marine Strategy Coordination Group on 10th November 2020

Its report adopted February 2021

Everyone agrees on the added value of the MSFD, it establishes a comprehensive framework and helps at national and regional level. With a defined common language to discuss marine issues, improved knowledge-base and help fill gaps. Interventions referred to the gap between the high ambition and weak legal basis of the MSFD - sometimes it is said that the MSFD has no teeth. The need to better define Good Environmental Status was highlighted. Many underlined the need to mainstream MSFD objectives into other relevant sectors (maritime, transport, fisheries) and coherence with other relevant policy instruments is needed. Climate change was also mentioned by many as an element that needs to be looked at in the future. The heavy reporting obligations were highlighted. Finally, on communication: the need to improve ownership and visibility of the MSFD. The work under MSFD is not well-known, and there is difficulty in engaging with citizens and policy-makers. Policies must be understood and present in public discussions.

The BSAC and NSAC are observers to this meeting. See:

[minutes of the 27th meeting of MSCG](#)

DGENV on the targets of protected areas and highly protected areas - how to designate and manage

DGENV held a meeting of its Marine Expert Group on 22nd and 23rd February. One agenda item was a draft technical note on criteria and guidance for designating these protected areas. Some BSAC members have raised the issue as to why fishing is categorised in the same way as hunting and mining in the paper. We are waiting to the meeting report. BSAC doesn't take part at this meeting. The publicly available documents are here:

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/00564ca7-9d16-4b81-bac5-b35fcb84aa33/library/46757bc0-32aa-4133-b1eb-f8bd5dca3c24?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

EUMOFA

New study available: Online sales of fishery and aquaculture products Feb 2021

This study analyses the new challenges faced by stakeholders (fishermen and fish farmers), how these stakeholders utilise online sales and digital solutions, and the sales opportunities available across local, national, and global seafood markets.

<https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/84590/Online+sales+of+FAP.pdf/db1c0281-4969-671e-5788-2a8f3bdeb43a?t=1614164002607>

EU International Ocean Governance Forum 2021: Setting the Course for a Sustainable Blue Planet

April 20, 2021 - Virtual event – 14-17 hrs CEST

The European Commission in association with the European External Action Service invite ocean stakeholders worldwide to the presentation **of the final recommendations for ocean sustainability action** by the Eu's International Ocean Governance (IOG) Forum. The **European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius** will open the event. A draft agenda can be downloaded [here](#). **Registration is now open, please register here.** Registration deadline is April 19, 2021 midnight CEST.

EMODnet – which is all about marine data in Europe

An open conference in June 14th -16th 2021

Listen to marine data providers' and users' experiences and appreciation of the value of EMODnet data, data products and services, and what can be done further to optimise the user experience:

<https://www.emodnet.eu/en/conference2021>

More EMODnet: New pan-European shoreline-migration map based on field measurements and aerial photography, for improved planning and decision-making

18th March 2021

<https://www.emodnet.eu/en/new-pan-european-shoreline-migration-map-based-field-measurements-and-aerial-photography-improved>

FARNET, the European Fisheries Network, had an event on: Better local strategies around the Baltic Sea and in inland areas:

This was a transnational online seminar for Baltic and inland FLAGs, 24-26 March 2021.

You can see the programme that was here:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/news-events/events/better-local-strategies-around-baltic-sea-and-inland-areas_en

it included a meet the FLAG section, including the FLAG from Darlowo. They all talked about challenges, targets and objectives, and there was an exhibition of some FLAG projects (Baltic seal and cormorant). Not watched, but asked for a report. Contact and find FARNET:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/sites/farnet/files/baltic-inland-online-seminar_draft-agenda-v3.pdf

European Parliament news and meetings

It's all known that the European Parliament voted on the new Fisheries Control system, reforming fisheries control rules in force since 2010

Their press release from 11th March 2021:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99227/fishing-rules-compulsory-cctv-for-certain-vessels-to-counter-infractions>

With the adopted text here:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0076_EN.html

Parliament adopted its negotiating position on the new Fisheries Control system, and is now ready to start negotiations with Council. The PECH Committee adopted its position on 5th February 2021.

The Danish Fishing News press release from 11th March 2021 refer to the outcome on control regulation vote as “real confusion”

<https://fiskeritidende.dk/nyheder/fiskeri/2021/marts/stor-forvirring-om-kamera-afstemning/>

According to this, there was no cause for celebration: the compulsory use of cameras onboard vessels has not been taken off the negotiating table. They clarify, the proposal for compulsory use of cameras on all vessels over 12 metres isn't part of the negotiating package. The EP proposes that a certain % of vessels over 12 metres should have cameras, based on a risk assessment. Fishing News will be following the negotiations closely

With Européche – damaging information - under a shadow of suspicion

4th March 2021

This goes back in time to before the Plenary vote in Parliament

Europêche wrote to the Commissioner Sinkevičius, to protest about the shadow of doubt cast over them in terms of not meeting control requirements. Here's the open letter of 4th March 2021:

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/f986a243-a866-47fe-a047-8b341a7e8bb9>

They take issue with a so-called explanatory note from the Commission sent to the Parliament and which focuses on specific amendments by the EP PECH Committee to the Commission's proposal for the Control Regulation. This concerns the margin of tolerance (AMs 81, 82 and 107), use of CCTV (AMs 120, 121, 124, and 125) on board and control of engine power of the vessels (AMs 134, 135 and 136). The Commission considers these proposed amendments as backtracking on the intentions of current control and enforcement. Européche finds the note inaccurate and with the apparent aim of generating support to go against positions adopted by the PECH Committee. Here's the explanatory note from the Commission (no date):

<http://europeche.chil.me/download-doc/342909>

The North Western Waters Advisory Council, NWWAC, didn't like this initiative either

The North Western Waters Advisory Council reviewed and discussed the Commission's explanatory note on the proposal for a revision of the EU-fisheries control regulation. They support the letter sent by Europepêche. They also express concern at the lack of Commission participation at recent AC meetings. They want DG MARE to address this issue and to look into sending a clear signal of support of the sector to Europe's fishers and to the general public.

LINK:

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

The BSAC Executive Committee has been informed about this and about the explanatory note and invited to comment. Some representatives of fisheries have expressed their concern about this issue. No final decision by BSAC on whether to write a letter on the issue. Revert after Easter.

The PECH Newsletter „Trawler – March 2021“ prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries is now available on the PECH website. PECH Chair Pierre Karleskind writes about some of the own-initiative reports from the Committee, covering a wide range of subjects, as well as reports on the ageing problem in fisheries, and how to meet the objectives of the landing obligation:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/230966/Trawler%20March%202021.pdf>

What happened at PECH Committee on 17th+18th March 2021????

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives:

They did some voting on this. Here's the draft opinion from PECH, the amendments and the final voting:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/PECH/PA/2021/03-17/1212713EN.pdf

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/PECH/AM/2021/03-17/1223854EN.pdf

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/PECH/DV/2021/03-17/FINALVLBiodiversityStrategy_EN.pdf

The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems Own initiative report from the PECH – towards a motion for a parliamentary resolution

Here's the draft report:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/PECH/PR/2021/03-17/1224945EN.pdf

Peter van Dalen (PPE) presented the report, about the impact of windparks on the sea and in the sea. But take care when building these parks, involve fishermen when windparks are being built. Farms can be built if it's clear that there's no damage caused to marine environment or to life in the marine environment. We don't know about repercussions of them (e.g. noise) and even of dismantling them. We need further research on socio-economic impacts on the fishermen. Build windparks in protected MPAs – that would ensure that fisheries can use more sea space. It can be a Win-win: – apply the precautionary approach and take into account uncertainties, and note the DG Mare view that wind parks can only be built if fisheries sector is aware of them.

There were a LOT of discussions and comments to this report. Not all views were in favour of the draft. Some took a strong stance to defend EU fishers, some underlining the importance of renewable energy, and others on how to find a balanced approach.

The Chair of PECH concluded that the sea will keep evolving, one can't leave the fishermen in a false sense of security – with conservative comfort. Fisheries are able to evolve and meet the challenges.

DG MARE Welcomes this PECH initiative. They've launched a study on impact of this – due later this spring. MSP has a major role to play in preventing conflicts at sea.

26th March for amendments.

The PECH is doing a study for advice on bycatch. (NB Last week there was voting on the proposed Control Regulation - including items related to bycatch)

The PECH Committee had invited ICES to present information and give an update on bycatch. Henn Ojaveer, ACOM Vice chair presented.

ICES publishing annual advice to DG Mare on this issue; there are several expert groups on this. Have developed a roadmap for ICES bycatch advice on protected, endangered and threatened species. The goal is to assess risk of and impact of fleet activity on incidental bycatch by 2022. There are several legislative instruments in place, several of them have different objectives. And ICES advice should match all those legislative needs, but it's difficult because they say different things. The advice from 2020 is based on data from 2018. Some of the conclusions is that present monitoring and data reporting is in most places insufficient and inconsistent and un-reporting is also occurring. Data is a big problem. The reported data is probably an under-representation. And spatial coverage is also incomplete. He gave information on the information base and what they're relying on – from official reportings from ICES member countries. Not all responded to the data call, information remains limited, and the biggest problem is from vessels below 12 m. Observer coverage is very often below 1%. And not enough data to examine bycatch rates. Given that, ICES currently can only assess risks for Common dolphin and the Baltic Sea HP. There are some issues linked to bycatch estimates. So need to prioritise efforts on those fisheries which are high risk, but also to reduce the bias (report monitoring effort in all métiers) and to improve precision: each bycatch even should be reported. They lack reference levels - set conservation levels, have agreed bycatch management objectives, and need for baselines of reference levels for population abundance or pressures.

What do we need? [with respect to fish, turtles, mammals, birds]:

- Better more accurate spatio-temporal recording of fishing effort
- Accurate recording on bycatch
- Have minimum sampling coverage of métiers
- Long term monitoring of abundance
- Compliance with control of mitigation methods
- And more expertise is needed! ICES is suffering under a heavy workload.

SOME COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEPS

- On bycatch we need more information – why is it so difficult for MS to provide data?
- Improve equipment to avoid bycatch; costs for fishermen to get rid of bycatch
- BIG concern about bycatches of dolphins – and questions on this

The Commission spoke: Happy that this presentation happening. Are working on report of technical measures regulation. And action plan under biodiversity strategy will come later this year. How to get better data, how to encourage MS to get the right data and implement the ENV legislation, and to see what can do under the Tech Measures Regulation to deal with this. We have a lot of gaps still in the knowledge and we're very keen to work with ICES further and to deepen this. And in terms of Data Collection Framework and make better use of the funding under EMFAF – so action plan will include concrete steps there.

The chair concluded that this helps us to improve our knowledge.

Next PECH Committee on 12+13 April 2021

Monday, 12 April 2021, from 13:45 to 18:45 and Tuesday, 13 April 2021, from 13:45 to 18:45 and will be webstreamed.

EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA holds its next Advisory Board meeting on Thursday 15th April 2021

It will be virtual. It's the meeting where all the ACs talk to EFCA and inform on relevant issues. See invitation here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-meeting-\(5\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-meeting-(5))

The BSAC ExCom Chair will take part.

Remember to check out EFCA news:

<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en>

Coastguard news

19th March 2021

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/coast-guard-cooperation-3-eu-agencies-strengthen-cooperation-support-member-states_en

News from other ACs

PELAC held a webinar on climate change Wednesday 17th March 2021

BSAC own report attached [LINK](#):

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

All the ACs will get together on 6th April for a chat and an update.

Agenda in the making. The PELAC is hosting and it wants to raise the issue of stakeholder participation in the EP Specialised Fisheries PECH Committee (that stakeholder participation needs to be considered).

ICES and science

ICES reporting on reducing impact of bottom-contacting fishing gears on seafloor habitats

24th March 2021

Read here:

<https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/WKTRADE3.aspx>

And more here:

Developing management options to reduce the impacts of bottom fishing on seabed habitats and undertake analysis of the trade-offs between overall benefit to seabed habitats and loss of fisheries revenue/contribution margin for these options.

The 6-9 April workshop will develop fisheries-benthic impact trade-off assessments for different EU marine regions and analyse a suite of management options that may reduce the impact of mobile bottom-contacting fishing gears in these regions.

There's also information on the first workshop that took place on 4th -5th March 2021

<https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WKTRADE3.aspx>

ICES and eel April 2021

A **Workshop on Designing an Eel Data Call** (WKEELDATA3), chaired by Alan Walker (UK) and Ciara O'Leary (Ireland), will meet virtually, 19 April–23 April 2021 to design a data call to all ICES/EIFAAC/GFCM countries having natural production of European eel and prepare their integration of data in the eel database supporting WGEEL work. The data call 2021 will request the same data as every year (e.g. the 2020 call) but also various extra stock indicators (B_0 , B_{best} , $B_{current}$, ΣA , ΣH and ΣF) reported by EU countries and others every three years to the WGEEL and to the EC in the context of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007.

To achieve this aim, the WK will:

- a) Prepare templates that will be used to report these data to the ICES and text for the 2021 ICES Data call on eel;
- b) Develop in the WGEEL's shiny application, the tools required for the automatic generation of templates for the integration of reported data in the database and for their analysis;
- c) Run tests with dummy data to validate the spreadsheets, data integration procedures and debug the shiny application.

WKEELDATA3 will report by 7th May 2021 for the attention of FSRG, WGEEL, WGDIAD, ACOM, SCICOM, EIFAAC, GFCM. The WK will require post-meeting work of estimated 15 man-days to run betatests to validate the developments, which will be distributed among WK members.

Finally finalised: 2021 Report from the Annual Meeting between ICES, Advisory Councils and other Observers (MIACO) now available from the ICES website at [MIACO 2021](#)

The quilt of sustainable governance: Patterns for practitioners

5th March 2021

How best to manage activities in marine systems? There are different concept out there, but how to bring them all together? Why not weave them all together and go towards a cohesive quilt of sustainability

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2021.630547/full>

The Danish marine research institute DTU Aqua holds lunchtime meetings

These are usually arranged for fellow researchers, and give them the chance to present the fairly high powered work going on. Since COVID took hold, the meetings have been arranged by Zoom, so links can be shared to extend the audience.

Researcher Jordan Feekings on 9th March 2021

Tools and methods for avoiding unwanted catches in commercial fisheries

Jordan Feekings DTU Aqua gave an interesting talk and informed about what is being done to limit incidental catches and their impacts on the environment. He gave examples of how the introduction of new technologies and materials is playing an important role in improving the performance and selectivity of commercial fisheries. A report:

LINK:

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

Patrizio Mariani – DTU Aqua, Oceans and Arctic, Optimization and emergence in ocean migrations

23rd March 2021

This is about problems relating to migration ecology. Migration used as a strategy by many organisms – not just fish – to find better conditions of all sorts. He's worked extensively on tuna. Also whales, sharks, turtles, penguins. We're more familiar with mackerel, herring, capelin. Why is it so common? New technologies have made the work much user – electronic tags. It can show the distances moved. But so far not so much of the processes involved. And a lot of the data is not so easily available, and this limits the speed at which they can advance the knowledge. Wants to talk about the processes involved; migration dynamics and hoe the knowledge can be used (e.g.in ecosystem management). Three main forces - sensing environment and going for highest quality resource, and the history of previous migrations, and social interaction in migrations.

And see here if you want to know what else they're talking about towards the summer – DTU Aqua lunchtime meetings;

LINK:

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

Other meetings and news of activities

What do you do when you can't pack your case and go places? Listen to and watch the World Summit Virtual Week, organised by the Economist!

All about accelerating n sustainable ocean economy, 1st – 5th March 2021

This was the annual event, organised by the Economist

Over 60 sessions, over 100 countries, over 150 speakers, and over 5,000 taking part - on line. Covering subjects: energy, plastics, fishing, shipping, tourism.

The Economist Group's World Ocean Initiative imagined an ocean in robust health, and with a vital economy.

This event fostered a global conversation on the greatest challenges facing the seas, inspiring bold thinking, new partnerships and the most effective action to build a sustainable ocean economy.

[8th Annual World Ocean Summit Virtual Week \(economist.com\)](#)

Here's a great BSAC report:

LINK:

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

More Baltic breakfast with the Baltic Sea Centre (part of Stockholm University): micropollutants in wastewater - and final words on fish – eat it!

17th March 2021

Baltic Breakfast is a series of short breakfast webinars organised by the Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre. Their aim is to present the latest knowledge about issues of central importance to the Baltic Sea environment.

Micropollutants are the result of human use and waste, but are poorly assessed and regulated. EU's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive over 30 years old is up for updating in 2022 to take into account things like pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Emma Undeman, Associate Professor in Environmental Science, Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre talked about their project to map micropollutants in the Baltic. Surface waters are impacted by MCPs. The MCPs get there via several different pathways (atmosphere, rivers, directly at the coast). Waste water treatment plants treat the contaminants – and how important is the WWT pathway compared to other pathways? It's really complicated. And it's difficult to get all the data on all WWTPs. But from what they got they analysed, they found over 1,000 different substances. They've produced an overview of the main substances present. It's a diverse set of chemicals they find in high concentrations.

Ksenia Pazdro, Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences (IOPAN) talked about Micropollutants in Polish marine waters and what are the sources and what solutions are there? Gulf of Gdansk as example - there are strong anthropogenic pressures, and it's a large catchment area. Chemical pollution is one of the major factors. They have good data set, and established data trends; safe levels for fish are exceeded for herring and flounder. There are new emerging MCPs, she gave some examples, but they need to get more data. Current knowledge shows that for MCPs dilution isn't the solution, need regulatory actions, improve WWT technologies, and remember personal actions: WHAT CAN I DO MYSELF? RETURN UNUSED DRUGS TO THE PHARMACY AND DON'T PUT THEM DOWN THE LOO

Matti Leppänen Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) talked about wastewater effluents
The Baltic Sea is special – mix of saltwater and freshwater; shallow coastal zones act like buffer zones. There are few studies of the effects of wastewater effluents (e.g. hormonal effects, population effects, immunological effects, stress in organisms). They've looked at specific studies. Data shows there's a cocktail of thousands of substances. What to do? Do something about them. It's not enough to dilute them. Consider upgrading treatment plants. Revised Directive: have an agreement nationally or EU wide on methods to be used. How to minimise the amount of MCPs in wastewater? Work with all solutions there: solid regulation of different chemicals used, identify most hazardous; improve the treatment of wastewaters as precautionary action; but it's a wide range of human activities producing these MCPs.

SO, WHAT ABOUT CONSEQUENCES WHEN EATING THE FISH????? There have been restrictions in the past on use of Baltic fish, but that has been cleared. Don't be worried about that because fish is healthy food.
<https://www.su.se/ostersjocentrum/english/communication/events/baltic-breakfast/baltic-breakfast-micropollutants-in-wastewater-1.541386>

Call for better management of micropollutants in wastewater

https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.540755.1614146581!/menu/standard/file/PBchempactENGwebb.pdf

Acoustic deterrent devices on Danish vessels to protect harbour porpoise

The Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture Fishery has been consulting Danish stakeholder groups about its forthcoming Government order on acoustic alarms (pingers) in certain gillnets. This is to conform with the requirements in the Annex XIII of the Technical Measures Regulation and the Commission's Implementing Regulation which as all the rules in the signals and characteristics of the acoustic devices. It's in Danish:

<https://hoeringsportalen.dk/Hearing/Details/64880>

The UN has declared 2021-2030 as the UN Decade of ocean science for sustainable development >>>> this leads you to a voluntary commitment for the UN oceans conference in June 2021:

<https://futureseas2030.org/>

And this lead to An Our Fish symposium over four days 22nd – 25th March 2021

OurFish works to end overfishing and restore a healthy ocean ecosystem. One recent activity has been in connection with **delivering on climate & biodiversity targets through better fisheries management**. So they've been exploring how ending overfishing is critical for realising the EU's response to the biodiversity and climate emergency. They did this over 4 days.

Find all the events here – where you can watch the recorded events:

<https://our.fish/news/symposium-delivering-on-climate-biodiversity-targets-through-better-fisheries-management/>

It culminated with a “fireside chat” with decision makers on 25th March 2021

Referring to this as an environmental emergency and how the pioneering science heard over the course of the four days shows how ending overfishing is crucial. This week they reported has also explored how the ocean can be and is the source of a solution, but destructive fishing is damaging the ecosystems. The papers from this process will be presented in Frontiers in Science.

Sitting by the virtual fireside:

- **Rashid Sumaila**, Professor and Director of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit at the University of British Columbia Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries

He made a presentation on ending overfishing. Research focused on fisheries and ecosystem related areas. Been looking at how climate change affects fish and fisheries, but not done the other way round. And are researching into this, half-way in research and papers will appear. A big scientific effort, thanks to Our Fish! Range from basic science (in terms of carbon release, mitigation, adaptation etc) all the way to the economics. Plankton and fish carbon sink, and how trawling of mackerel, herring and cod contributes to that. So how ending overfishing would significantly improve marine health and mitigate effects of climate change.

- **Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans & Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevicius**

He got into politics because he believes in change. Do we need more tools in the EU and what role can the COM play in this? There's the CFP which is a most powerful tool. Probably needs review to be more adjusted to nowadays challenges – but full implementation of the CFP is the cure that we currently need. Most importantly that it's fully balanced and respects all sides – with the three pillars of the CFP well covered. COM does its best to maintain the balance. Operate in transparency, proposals are published and always seeking results at MSY or at scientific advice. But more needs to be done – CFP properly implemented, but also need to make sure that the MPAs really are working and sufficiently protected and uphold ambition of biodiversity strategy and the MPAs. And make sure we don't frustrate fishing community, but find a balance and communicate the gains and the losses if certain steps aren't taken. EU has made some commitments on climate change and on biodiversity. And there are two crucial COPs this year. EU always had the view that oceans are valuable. Continue to push for full implementation of the CFP and with culture of compliance – and nothing to do to show mistrust of fishermen. Implement and enforce. MSY and the LO. Improve selectivity of gear. Protect species and habitats. And will be Action Plan later this year on e.g. limiting gear that's harmful to the biodiversity.

- **Ska Keller, Member of European Parliament**, Co-President of the European Greens/EFA, also a substitute on the PECH Committee.

How can the EU contribute to this? A lot of the EU fisheries is being controlled. Not so easy to end overfishing. ENV forces don't always have a majority in this regard e.g. on emergency stop to fishing is not always so self-evident. There's a lot of pressure from the fishing industry. We have the EU legislation on support for fisheries, how much can be fished and on fisheries controlled – and we need majorities in EU and in national governments. Where is the role of the Parliament - what more can be done to contribute to better and fuller implementation vis à vis 2030 targets. We need a majority that says oceans are our priority. If we don't have a majority for biodiversity, ocean and climate protection, then nothing gets done. The ocean needs a lobby, it's been getting better, but we need the political majorities, through elections and public awareness. MAJORITIES and PUBLIC PRESSURE.

- **Farah Obaidullah, Ocean Advocate**, Founder of Women4Oceans

Work of women in the ocean base. Experience in ocean advocacy. Campaigns to end destructive fishing. And in protecting the ocean from deep sea mining. What's the role of civil society? Note overlap between environmental functions and fishing interests. Agrees on need for full implementation of the CFP. EU has come up with so many Directives on these issues, but there's the frustration from civil society that we have these instruments, but they're not fully implemented and there's no cross pollination between interests and silos – e.g. fisheries silo and MPAs silo. So they need better cross-over on ecosystem based approach. Note also the role of the deep seabed and the sediments on the seabed and not to disturb them - not a good idea when talking about carbon storage. So deep sea fishing regulations and deep sea mining. Slide on bottom

trawling that resuspends sediment and releases CO₂ -referring to evidence that it's destructive and impacts the climate. Civil society wants to see the change, but there are huge numbers of people on the streets, but not talking about better fisheries management. We've seen the increase in concern about the climate. Symposiums are important to show what is the connection to the oceans. **We need to frame the discussion of the ocean within climate discussion.**

Majority of those taking part (about 160 people) voted online that fisheries management has a role to play in biodiversity and climate change.

PEW Charitable Trusts held an event to publish their latest report: “Lessons from Implementation of the EU’s Common Fisheries Policy”

Distilling progress and management developments during seven years of its application, the report examines how the policy has performed since coming into effect in 2014, the extent to which its goals were met, and important conclusions for anyone working in this field. This is the PEW report:

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2021/03/lessons-from-implementation-of-the-eus-common-fisheries-policy>

From 2020: End Overfishing and Increase the Resilience of the Ocean to Climate Change

This is about: Marine fish stocks and the ecosystems they inhabit are in decline in many parts of our ocean, including in some European waters, because of overfishing and the ecosystem effect of fishing in general. Simultaneously, climate change is disrupting the physics, chemistry and ecology of the ocean, with significant consequences on the life it holds. This paper review literature and does an analysis. Here:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/12370/how-overfishing-handicaps-resilience-of-marine-resources-under-climate-change#articles>

HELCOM

- **Intersessional Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 12A-2021) 2nd and 4th March 2021. Online.**

This meeting worked further on the HELCOM updated Baltic Sea Action Plan. BSAC made a report. Find it here:

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

The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on ecosystem based management 11th March 2021

Another BSAC report from this well-attended event

LINK:

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

<https://helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/events/helcom-stakeholders-conferences/helcom-stakeholder-conference-2021/>

How's it going with the BSAP update?

And what did the Heads of Delegation to HELCOM get up to 17th and 18th March????

With about 40 documents to get through, they had a lot to do and read

They got an update on preparations for the Ministerial meeting for 20th October 2021 in Germany - this is THE adoption of the revised BSAP. They got an update of the work to revise and update the HELCOM BSAP Update of the various groups in HELCOM and on the work of HELCOM in previous year Accounts and admin Will meet again in March 2022.

HOLAS III

State of the Baltic Sea

The preparatory phase runs from the beginning of 2020-to the end of 2021, in a staggered structure.

A HOLAS III assessment, consisting of data collection, indicator evaluations, integrated assessments and report production, would begin in late 2021 and run to the end of 2023, with the bulk of results and supporting material ready and approved by mid-March 2023.

Note: HELCOM also working on a revised Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

The updated HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter includes a target to ensure measures in place to address the most commonly found and harmful litter items found in the Baltic Sea region. To reduce the impact of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear on the marine ecosystem in a systematic way by developing HELCOM guidelines and recommendations, to significantly reduce the consumption of single use plastics, to prevent littering from all sources, to minimize inputs of microplastics, to be aware of new and emerging issues related to marine litter generation, and to promote and actively work for a global agreement to reduce input of marine litter and microplastics.

Other information/reading

Sweden just published a report on microplastics in the environment

From the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Issued in February 2021

It focuses more on land-based sources of plastic (other agencies look at the marine areas). And it chooses to focus on artificial grass pitches and other outdoor sports and play areas and facilities, as well as laundering textiles. And it's proposing measures that reduce emissions at source as far as possible. This is all a bit overwhelming. But guess what? It's in English:

<https://www.naturvardsverket.se/Documents/publ-filer/6900/978-91-620-6957-5.pdf?pid=28120>

Discovery of Sound in the Sea

Team facilitates a webinar series on topics related to underwater sound for the international decision-making community and other interested communities. Each year the webinar series has a different focus. The webinars are generally one or two presenters, followed by a question and answer session. This webinar will be presented by Dr. Sofie Van Parijs – NOAA Fisheries, Passive Acoustic Program Lead. After a short presentation there will be a Q&A session with Dr. Sofie Van Parijs.

Register

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/passive-acoustic-monitoring-overview-marine-mammals-and-fishes-registration-143838664317>

<https://dosits.org/>

EUROFISH Magazine first edition 2021

1. We're back to **the Selectivity in gears** (remember Jordan Feeings above?) - and avoiding bycatch and the BSAC-BALTFISH-DTU Aqua Workshop last November 2020

Eurofish made a nice report. Pages 15-17 in the magazine. Find it here:

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

2. **And there's a lot of other stuff in the magazine about Estonia – fisheries, boosting interest in eating fish, processing, and algae production**

It includes an article on future-proofing the small scale sector. There are very few full-time commercial fishers Today just 10-15% of the coastal fishers are fully dependent on their profession, for most it is a part time occupation supplemented by other work usually unrelated to fishing. Fishers are still primarily catching and selling the unprocessed fish though value- adding activities are increasing (from a low base). There are some bigger companies involved in the sector and they are active along the entire value chain: catching, processing, and selling on the domestic market or also exporting. Also reference to the fishmeal and fish oil factory in Estonia, set up jointly by three Estonian POs. Pages 26-39 in the magazine.

<https://eurofishmagazine.com/magazine-issues/current-issue/item/798-future-proo-ng-the-small-scale-shery>

3. **And a EUROFISH article on future prospects for the Baltic Sea: "Fishing in the Baltic Sea faces an uncertain future" – read it!**

Despite the long and rich traditions of the Baltic and its fisheries, the challenges that it now faces are serious. This four-page article looks at the causes and some of the changes that are happening. Pages 40-43 in the magazine. Link here:

<https://eurofishmagazine.com/magazine-issues/current-issue/item/799-fishing-in-the-baltic-sea-faces-an-uncertain-future>

Baltic Eye of Stockholm University has got its eye on trawl fishing

9th March 2021

“More of the Swedish trawling has moved closer to the coast”

This is a policy brief which says reduce trawling in order to protect Baltic herring. It says that the situation for herring in the Baltic Sea has got worse over the past ten years. At the same time Swedish trawling has increased and too much herring is caught close to the shore. What’s needed is reduced fishing pressure and more knowledge about the complex population structure of herring. It gives information on herring and fishery in the Gulf of Bothnia and central Baltic, with maps, when the trawling is taking place and where and how much is caught by Sweden and other countries, and showing that the proportion of catches in coastal areas is increasing. There’s a need for a more finely tuned regulation and the article concludes with some policy recommendations. In Swedish:

<https://balticeye.org/sv/policy-briefs/minska-det-kustnara-tralfisket-for-att-skydda-ostersjosillen/>

Denmark has launched its new marine strategy: The Ministry (of Fisheries etc) wants to protect the sea’s wild nature

26th March 2021

The target is 30% protection of the marine area. The government will identify 19 protected areas in the North Sea and in the Baltic (around Bornholm). This will mean that bottom trawling, dumping of material at sea, extracting materials from the sea, and aquaculture will be banned in the areas. 12 of the areas will be under strict protection. In addition, 6 bird protection areas are designated. The proposal has been sent out for public consultation. The article in Danish lists the areas, the species and habitats, as well as the bird protection areas and the birds to be protected.

https://fvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/regeringen-vil-beskytte-havets-vilde-natur/?utm_campaign=regeringen-vil-beskytte-havets-vilde-natur-&utm_medium=email&utm_source=fvm_nyhedsmail

The Danish political parties back a green transition for the fisheries sector with a budget of 123 million EUR from the coming EMFAF for 2021-2023.

18th March 2021

The plan is a greener and more sustainable fisheries sector: green technologies, new fishing methods, development of gears, restoration of waterways, as well as environment and climate improvements to aquaculture. In Danish:

<https://fvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/foedevareministeren-samler-alle-folketingets-partier-om-groen-omstilling-af-fiskerierhvervet/>

FAO/GLOBEFISH

With HS Codes for fish and fish products

10th March 2021

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/news-events/details-news/en/c/1379684/>

The newsteam Fiskerforum comments on the EMFAF funding package: politicians ought to think about more simple and constructive solutions

24th March 2021

The article points out that most of the money goes to everything BUT fishermen - only about 10% of it will go to the fishery. Some constructive criticism given by fishermen, in Danish:

https://fiskerforum.dk/med-et-fiskeri-paa-haelene-boer-politikerne-overveje-mere-lavpraktisk-og-konstruktive-loesninger/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-03-25

Want to reduce bycatch? See this letter from Serviva GmbH (and link)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As an IP management company, we have been commissioned from ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems GmbH. with the technology transfer of a new civil, autonomous, unmanned underwater vehicle to reduce bycatch and are working to ensure that this completely tested, new, innovative technology is used on the international market. Since the development of civil UUV's is not in the focus of ThyssenKrupp Marine Services GmbH. the decision was made by the management to place this extremely exciting technology on the global market via Serviva. The areas of application are diverse and range from sustainable commercial fishing to reduce bycatch, use in the maritime maintenance sector, research and generation of marketable underwater data to rescue and search missions on the high seas and in inland waters. Extremely positive signals from the market, in course of development, confirm our assessments of the first-class business opportunities and areas of application, both from the commercial sector and from the scientific sector! Since your institutions are heavily involved in these topics, we would like to ask you if you would support us in launching this future-oriented technology on the market and whether I can send you further information? Thank you in advance and if there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call me!

Best regards

Rudolf Andexlinger

Serviva GmbH.

Schlüterstraße 38

D-10629 Berlin

Mobil: +43 699 10201666

Email: r.andexlinger@serviva.com

www.serviva.com

LINK:

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

Ending with Aina, please read this, it's sad, and important – the BSAC sent condolences

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends, and staff of EUROFISH International Organisation,

It is with deep sadness that I announce the death of Aina Afanasjeva, Director of EUROFISH International Organisation. Aina passed away on Sunday, 14 March, after a long and courageous battle with illness.

Aina was scheduled to go on sick leave from today and officially appointed me as acting director last week.

I will take over all Aina's official duties and arrange the necessary procedures for the appointment of a new director. During this interim period, all EUROFISH activities will continue as planned.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact Brit Jensen:

Brit.Jensen@eurofish.dk

For those who would like to pay their respects to Aina's family, the address is:

Sergejs Afanasjevs (Aina's husband)

Silmaju iela 2

Tilderi

LV-2121 Salaspils lauku teritorija

Latvia

And the email of her son-in-law, Sergejs, is: sergejs@smdsolutions.lv

On behalf of all the EUROFISH staff,

Marco Frederiksen

Acting Director

EUROFISH International Organisation

Marco.Frederiksen@eurofish.dk

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