

Number 11, December 2020

A BIG thank you to members for membership payments so far. Please keep 'em coming – deadline Friday 8th January 2021.

From the BSAC Secretariat, we wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year!

Thank you for your support and good cooperation throughout the year. And thank you for the cards that some of you have sent - they are much appreciated.

The BSAC Secretariat closes at lunchtime 23rd December and re-opens 9am Monday 4th January 2021



BSAC news and meetings

A strong focus on selectivity in the Baltic fisheries for flatfish and how to avoid cod

The BALTIFISH-DTU Aqua-BSAC Workshop on Selectivity 30th November 2020

The purpose of the workshop was to identify new and existing technical solutions that can be developed and/or directly implemented in the Baltic Sea to reduce unwanted catches of cod.

There was an excellent turnout, both from BSAC membership and observers. Presentations made at the workshop by the scientists (DK, GER, SW) working on selectivity and the Baltic cod stocks are here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Workshop-on-Technical-solutions-to-reduce-unwanted>

The report is almost finalised and will be on the website next week.

Then focus on stickleback, the EU's technical measures and western Baltic spring spawning herring

The BSAC Pelagic Working Group 7th December 2020

A report and draft set of guidelines for a trial fishery for stickleback are being finalised. Once approved by the Pelagic WG, the guidelines will be sent to the ExCom for comment and approval.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Pelagic-Working-Group>

The report is almost finalised and will be on the website next week.

A BSAC Focus Group/Working Group to deal with EU Technical Measures Regulation – BSAC reply to Commission: Monday 18th January 2021

The Commission has to do an evaluation of the Technical Measures Regulation. Its report is delayed until 2021. The report will consider information from Member States and the Advisory Councils. DG Mare has prepared a questionnaire for the Advisory Councils to reply to:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-meeting-on-the-Technical-Measures-Regulation>

The BSAC meeting will deal with this on Monday 18th January 2021. The response from the BSAC will not be limited to the questions asked. In advance of the meeting, the Secretariat will group the questions, and then the BSAC Working Group chairs will help the Secretariat to do some initial drafting of answers, which we will send out in advance.

This meeting will take place from 10.00 – 14.00 CET with lunch from 11.00 – 12.00.

Please confirm your participation at this meeting by Monday 4th January 2021.

Please send request for interpreting by Wednesday 23rd December 2020.

Which way the Common Fisheries Policy in the future: Follow up on the CFP work:

Three BSAC Working Groups to deal with further work on CFP reform all on a Tuesday

19th January 2021, 2nd February 2020 and 9th February 2021

The BSAC is in the process of discussing the Future of the Common Fisheries Policy with the aim of providing input to the Commission. The Commission will report on the functioning of the CFP by the end of 2021.

This is part of the BSAC work programme: to prepare a communication from the BSAC to address the key question: What should the future CFP contain?

Work that was started on this was halted due to COVID.

It was agreed to continue the work in three focused sessions in January and February 2021.

They will all take place from 10.00 -15.00 with lunch from 12.00 – 13.00.

The Secretariat will send a draft for each of the Groups to look at and prepare in advance.

You don't have to take part in all three meetings. The choice is yours.

- The first session will be held on **Tuesday 19th January 2021, 10:00 – 15:00 [how to improve the living conditions for fish and address ecosystem based management, chaired by Nils Höglund]**,
- The second on **Tuesday 2nd February 2021, 10:00 - 15:00 [scientific advice, landing obligation, MSY, overall management, chaired by – Michael Andersen]**
- The third on **Tuesday 9th February 2021 10:00 – 15:00 [decision making, regionalisation, recreational fisheries and subsidies, chaired by Mart Unrest]**.

BSAC Executive Committee Friday 29th January 2021 (virtual)

An invitation will follow.

The BSAC Management Team met on 11th December 2020

The meeting discussed current work and meetings, the external evaluation of the BSAC, functioning of the Advisory Councils. A report will be sent to the Executive Committee for information.

The BSAC Management Team met Oxford Research on 16th December 2020 (Zoom) to discuss the preliminary results of the external evaluation

Oxford Research presented **the main findings** of the external evaluation. The consultancy received 31 answers (71%) and carried out 15 interviews with the BSAC members and 5 interviews with external stakeholders. The overall objective was to look at the performance of the BSAC and recommend how to improve it.

The consultancy concluded that in general the BSAC is well performing and fulfilling its role. There is some room for improvements with regards to satisfaction and involvement of members, tone and language at meetings and role and impact of recommendations. The added value of the BSAC, apart from its advisory role is to create a contact point with the European Commission and BALTFISH.

The consultancy also concluded that there is a high degree of satisfaction with the administrative work of the BSAC. The BSAC is considered to be one of the best functioning ACs with a very professional and well performing Secretariat.

Chairing and running of meetings has improved in the last few years. But meetings are not always experienced as productive or pleasant. There are incidents with inappropriate language. TAC and quota area is the main area of conflict. There is a broad call for more cooperation and common ground. The advice is perceived as having little impact.

According to the tentative recommendations, the BSAC should, among others, continue to support wider participation at meetings, re-consider the approach to the TAC discussions and approach to consensus.

The Management Team decided that the results of the external evaluation should be presented by Oxford Research at the next ExCom meetings (possibly in January). The report with the recommendations should also be presented to the General Assembly in May.

BSAC draft estimated budget and work programme for 2021-2022

Same procedure as every year – the BSAC Secretariat is about to start to draft these for ExCom approval. It already invited suggestions to the work programme.

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

BALTFISH information on state of play with harbour porpoise and salmon and update from DG Mare

The ExCom recently chair wrote to BALTFISH to refer to current work on development of measures to prevent bycatch of harbour porpoise, and to express wish for collaboration on salmon management. BALTFISH Presidency wrote back to the Secretariat on 10th December 2020 and informed:

Harbour porpoise. An extraordinary BALTFISH High Level Group took place on the Joint Recommendation on the harbour porpoise. It was decided to split it into 2 parts. The first part will be sent to the Commission in December 2020 and cover the protection in core areas which involves different closures in NATURA 2000 areas (Midsea Bank, DE/PL NATURA areas, Puck Bay – static net closures, ADDs/pingers in Puck bay). The second phase involves a `big` area where to apply pingers/ADDs (ICES rec no 5) and control measures. 2nd phase requires more time for consultations; the aim is to have it ready by May-June 2021 (exact time has not yet agreed precisely).

A salmon management plan, BALTFISH has no news and no concrete plan to move on with the salmon management plan. If there is a strong will, it may be further developed and chaired by Finland.

We've written to DG Mare to find out status within the Commission on these two subjects

In reply to the above information, DG mare has written to inform us that on harbour porpoise, as stated in their letter to the BSAC on 25th Sept 2020, the Commission is currently preparing emergency measures for protection of harbour porpoise. The aim is to act quickly in order to prevent population extinction. The emergency measure are not a permanent solution, but should bridge the time between now and the adoption of a Joint Recommendation from the regional group BALTFISH. The letter from DG Mare and the BSAC recommendations are here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/Letter-to-BSAC-from-DG-Mare-about-harbour-porpoise>

On a possible future salmon management plan, DG Mare would be interested in receiving input from BALTFISH and possibly the BSAC, and then consider what to do.

Gear selectivity and cod avoidance

BALTFISH has informed that a Joint Recommendation on roofless gear (to enable escape of cod, but retention of plaice) is in the pipeline. But we don't know when it will be sent.

Commission news and meetings

The annual meeting with the Commission for all the Advisory Councils will be 18th January 2021 14.30 – 18.30.

An invitation will be coming, but we expect the focus will be on functioning of the ACs and suggestions for how to improve. ACs have been invited by the Commission to send suggestions on how to improve the functioning of the ACs. Responses are diverse. Secretariat has them, if you're interested. The letter from the BSAC is here:

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

DG MARE Recreational fisheries monitoring and control 4th December 2020

This was a Webinar organised by DG MARE on 4th December 2020.

Several BSAC members took part. Please find attached a report from the meeting:

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

The presentations of the webinar are published under the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/webinar-recreational-fisheries-monitoring-and-control_en

Commission Consultation on zero pollution

A public consultation on Zero Pollution is available under the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12588-EU-Action-Plan-Towards-a-Zero-Pollution-Ambition-for-air-water-and-soil>

The consultation runs until 10th February.

FARNET produced its November newsletter >>>> check out the seals and cormorants

8th December 2020

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/news-events/news/farnet-flash-newsletter-november-2020_en

See about the Seals and cormorants, a major threat to the Baltic fisheries sector on the South Finland FLAG project to tackle this common problem to find and develop sustainable solutions with regards to these protected predators. The project encouraged the creation of a platform for Baltic Sea FLAGs to meet and exchange experience, knowledge, and good practices. The results are gathered together, with report, press releases, project website etc.:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/seals-and-cormorants-baltic-addressing-common-environmental-challenge_en

STECF Reports

Assessing balance indicators for key fleet segments and review of national reports on member states efforts to achieve balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities

This is STECF report 20-11

It was published on 11th December 2020:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c432b50f-3dbe-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-179408834>

Council news and meetings

Amending the Baltic multiannual plan (2016/1139) to make it possible to restructure fishing fleets due to reduced fishing possibilities

This paves the way for fishing capacity reduction in the Baltic Sea and permanent cessation of fishing activities for fleets fishing for Eastern Baltic cod, Western Baltic cod and Western Baltic herring.

Also included are extra control measures of vessels with by-catch quotas of eastern Baltic cod, or fishing western cod and western herring, as well as prior notification of landings tightened from 300 kg of cod live weight to 250 kg of cod.

It entered into force on 1st December 2020.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/1781>

The Regulation on fishing opportunities for the Baltic 2021 is here

http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Home/CELEX_32020R1579_EN_TXT.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

The December Council - difficult negotiations were overshadowed by Brexit

17th December 2020

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/17/agreement-on-fishing-opportunities-in-the-atlantic-north-sea-mediterranean-and-black-sea-for-2021/>

The actual figures are here:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47557/main-tacs-table-final.pdf>

We understand that it's status quo for management of eel in 2021.

European Parliament news and meetings

Next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries:

Here's the provisional calendar for January to March 2021

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/216139/PECH%20calendar%202021.pdf>

The next meeting is 14th January 2021

EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA held a meeting with all the Advisory Councils at its Advisory Board on 9th October 2020

You can find the EFCA report on its website here:

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

The BSAC ExCom chair has written to EFCA about eel and salmon

The ExCom chair has highlighted eel and looks forward to an update from EFCA once outstanding issues concerning EFCA's empowerment for dealing with freshwater species are resolved. On salmon, the issue of illegal fishing for salmon in the Baltic. EFCA to take part in a BSAC ExCom meeting in the new year to inform us on the state of play with respect to control of the salmon fishery. The EFCA Executive Director has taken note and is working on a date for an initial exchange with the BSAC on this.

News from other ACs

Report from the Inter-ACs meeting

All the Advisory Councils met with chairs and vice chairs. It was chaired by the BSAC ExCom chair (and he did a great job). Report:

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

Several Advisory councils go together and produce a "multi-AC" advice on the Blue Economy

The BSAC was involved in the process of drafting the advice, but it gave support to the conclusions in the advice. Find it here:

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

The Advisory Councils meet ICES (MIAC) and all stakeholders meet ICES (MIACO) on 14th January 2020.

Meeting between ICES and Advisory Councils 10.00 -12.00 MIAC

It's only a two-hour meeting for many ACs to state their case. The ExCom chair and the WG chairs will take part at this and inform of three issues of importance to the BSAC: stickleback, western Baltic spring spawning herring and ecosystem overviews. There won't be time for a full exchange with ICES, but the BSAC will underline these issues and invite a written response from ICES.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Annual-meetings-with-ICES>

Meeting between ICES and Advisory Councils and other Observers 13.00 -17.00

The draft agenda is available. ICES is limiting the number of participants from each AC to 4.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Annual-meetings-with-ICES>

Other meetings and news of activities

EFARO: European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations ask you to save the date

22nd January 2021

To learn about sustainable and circular food production at sea

It will be a webinar

<https://www.efaro.eu/>

ICES and science

ICES Fisheries overview Baltic

This news was published on 30th November 2020 and the information updated 3rd December 2020

http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2020/2020/FisheriesOverviews_BalticSea_2020.pdf

ICES is updating and producing new ecosystem overviews

10th December 2020

This includes updates to the annual fishing graphs in the overviews - - including for the Baltic:

http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2020/2020/EcosystemOverview_BalticSea_2020.pdf

Advice product on developing appropriate lists for Descriptor 3, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, for reporting by EU Member States under MSFD Article 17 in 2024

16th December 2020

Under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Descriptor 3 states that: Populations of all commercially-exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock. The ICES Advice is a response to EU request on 'developing appropriate lists for Descriptor 3, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, for reporting by EU Member States under MSFD Article 17 in 2024' has been released today and is available here:

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2020/Special_Requests/eu.2020.13.pdf

ICES MIAC and MIACO Meetings 14th January 2021

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Annual-meetings-with-ICES>

ICES on a new framework for advice

17th December 2020

The ICES advisory process is open and transparent and generates independent, credible advice based on the work of the ICES scientific community. We strive to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide to meet conservation, management, and sustainability goals. We need to ensure that how we produce and share our advice remains robust and is resilient to future challenges.

As ICES is leading and responding to calls to support ecosystem based management, our advice framework is evolving and integrating. We have revised the introduction to advice, which sets the basis for why and how we provide advice. ICES advice will be framed around 10 principles, which should be applied to all recurrent advice, special requests and overviews. These 10 principles can be applied to all advice subjects, examples include fishing opportunities, seabed impact, methods for analysing contaminants and renewable energy and many more.

The rationale for the basis of the fishing opportunities advice (the former Introduction to the Advice) will now become a sub-section of the guide, along with a new sub-section on advice for ecosystem services and impacts (which will be published in January, 2021). We will strive to work to the principles and increase consistency across all our advice.

We hope that you will find the Guide and the 10 principles a useful development as we move forward.

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/AdvisoryPrinciples.aspx>

Season greetings from ICES:



The Danish Institute DTU Aqua report that there are 1.2 million barriers and obstructions to waterways in Europe

18th December 2020

Most of these man-made obstructions are small (less than 2 metres high) and because of that, they don't get recorded in databases. They report on an EU funded research project AMBER, reported on in Nature. The so-called Amber barrier atlas has been going through loads of datasets and has created a visual atlas of the many barriers. It reveals the extent of the problem, which is big. The barriers create two problems: they prevent migratory fish from going up-and downstream, but they can also change the shape of the waterway and that can mean that the habitat disappears. Read here:

<https://amber.international/european-barrier-atlas/>

Danish here:

https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2020/12/12-millioner-spaerringe-i-europas-vandloeb?id=db3f564e-e02f-4d5f-8617-f44d91151b4b&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=

Guardian: Tyres – yes car tyres – are polluting and killing off salmon on the west coast of the US

This is from the Guardian 3rd December:

Silver salmon returning to streams in the state of Washington are dying before spawning. When it rains, stormwater carries fragments of old tyres into nearby streams. There are chemicals in the tyres and which are deadly to the salmon. The results suggest that fish and other creatures in the USA and other parts of the world are at risk from chemicals in car tyres.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/03/coho-salmon-pollution-car-tyres-die-off>

And it links to an article in the journal Science

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/12/09/science.abd6951>

HELCOM

HELCOM been working hard on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. It brought all Heads of Delegation together on 7th and 8th December

This was a big meeting with a big agenda and many documents to look at the detailed work on the update of the BSAP. On the agenda was proposal to have a Stakeholder Conference on Thursday 11th March 2021 on ecosystem approach and ecosystem-based management. Not sure, as we write whether it will include reference to the current BSAP update. It will be an online workshop. The plan is to hold it in cooperation with Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, SwAM (tbc). NB A concept note on a workshop on ecosystem-based management was circulated to the HELCOM Heads of Delegation on 26 October 2020.

All documents available from HELCOM.

HELCOM will continue its work on updating the BSAC throughout 2021. They've already got loads of meetings planned www.helcom.fi

HELCOM informs on Sweden updating and informing according to Marine Strategy Framework Directive - on its status for GES, targets, measures

The Swedish authorities have informed HELCOM that the Swedish public consultation on a proposed update of the Programme of Measures according to Article 17 in MSFD is ongoing from 1 November 2020 until 30 April 2021. A few days ago they also published a summary in English. Note that they're proposed some new measures. Find it here:

<https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.58cb8632175e1b2ac83f0ece/1607348153057/english-summary-proposal-swedish-update-programme-measures-according-marine-strategy-framework-directive.pdf>

Other information/reading

Coalition Clean Baltic: NGOs New year's resolution to ensure Ministers deliver a future-proof plan to save the Baltic Sea.

7th December 2020

Another year has come and gone, and we, the Coalition Clean Baltic and WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme are taking stock of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) presently being revised by all Baltic Sea coastal countries. We have a special resolution for HELCOM Heads of Delegation after a year of the revision process: to deliver an actionable Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) that is future-proof. The revised plan must go beyond "business as usual" to address the challenges of the coming decade, including seven priority areas for action that are not yet included in the revised BSAP.

Danish Fishermen PO on catching flatfish in German waters

A couple of articles in the Danish newspaper Fishing news 12th December 2020, going into the details of the agreement reached with Germany, so Danish vessels can now catch all flatfish (not just plaice) in German waters in SDs 22 and 24. They can fish within 3 to 12 nm. It's good news for Danish fishermen after years of discussions, and they've already been out fishing. One fisherman regrets that fact that in 2021 the closure in SD 24 will be extended from 2 to 3 months (15th May to 15th August). Interview with Kim Kær Hansen who gives the whole story (a bit of a soap opera, he says), happy with the result, but hopes that in the long run, the rules Basic Regulation will be amended so it's made clear that Danish fishermen can catch all kinds of flatfish in the German zone. In Danish. The rules for Danish fishermen are here:

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/Ita/2020/1517>

Danish fisheries – engine power and The Engine power mystery

Attached is an article from the Danish newspaper Weekendavisen 27th November
Shared with us by a BSAC member

It focuses on mussel fishing in the Limfjorden and how engine power is registered
<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest/>

Danish ministry reporting on the TACs and quotas for 2021

17th December 2020

It reports in Danish, and shows a table with the 25% share of annual TACs, and for some species the 65% -
to cover for the first three months of the year:

<https://fvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/eu-aftale-fiskekvoter-forlaenges-i-tre-maaneder/>

European Anglers Alliance introduces German Angling Association

14th December 2020

Read about the German Angling Association DAFV

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14547/introducing%e2%80%a6-the-german-angling-association.html>

European Anglers Alliance reports on biodiversity and hydropower – what's the deal for migratory fish?

11th December 2020

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14546/event-report-biodiversity-and-hydropower-a-green-deal-for-migratory-fish.html>

Europêche on the new fisheries fund (EMFAF)

4th December 2020

For the period 2021-2027 and for 6.1 billion EUROS.

Europêche welcomes the agreement, the fact that the EMFAF is a more simplified fund, but wishes more
money could have gone into it. See here:

<https://europeche.chil.me/attachment/fe2ff517-97b2-4361-9ab7-e814bc25181e>

Europêche also has comments on the December Council

They give the background to the decisions due to Brexit negotiations, and point out that flexibility is needed
due to current difficulties. They point to the larger number of fish stocks in 2021 that will be fished at
maximum sustainable yield, but regret the quota reductions and restrictive measures adopted.

<https://europeche.chil.me/post/329073/catch-limits-for-2021-not-good-enough-especially-serious-situation-faced-by-the->

Fisheries Secretariat: on Deep Sea biodiversity under threat from mining lobby

Published on 11th December 2020

A handful of mining corporations exert a heavy influence over the international negotiations determining the
future of the seabed, lobbying governments to urgently finalise rules that would allow for full-scale mining of
the deep ocean to begin, according to a new report from Greenpeace.

[Deep sea biodiversity under threat from mining lobby – The Fisheries Secretariat \(fishsec.org\)](https://www.fishsec.org/2020/12/16/eu-commission-brexit-contingency-plan-on-fisheries-approved-by-council/)

Fisheries Secretariat reports on the December Fisheries Council

16th December 2020

It gives background to the terms of keeping fishing going, even without a deal with the UK on Brexit and the
application of UNCLOS to create a legal framework for fishing after 31.12.20

<https://www.fishsec.org/2020/12/16/eu-commission-brexit-contingency-plan-on-fisheries-approved-by-council/>

Fish Act say put an end to eel fishing in Germany

A conservation movement across Europe working for healthy oceans

<https://fishact.org/>

They wrote on 13th December to say stop eel fishing and support a petition:

<https://fishact.org/2020/12/put-an-end-to-eel-fishing/>

German fisheries reporting in their newsletter Fischerblatt

The October edition was much taken up with the outcome of the October Fisheries Council and the consequences for the German fisheries; interviews and feedback from ministers, fisheries sector representatives, and from the OIG. There's also focus on windparks in the North Sea and the impact they have on marine space fisheries, as well as marine mammals. The November edition has an article on immediate action to protect the western Baltic cod stock and support measures for temporary cessation in 2021. It's writes about the conflicts that can arise when developing sea based energy at sea. And it has news from the NSAC with the election of Peter Breckling as vice chair, and letter to the regional group Scheveningen about management measures and Natura 2000. Contact info@deutscher-fischerei-verband.de

Marine Ingredients and TRUST

15th December 2020

Marine Ingredients have produced a film (in English, four minutes) to show how Denmark has taken the lead in developing a fisheries control and monitoring system to ensure that the catches are correctly monitored, recorded and landed. The film explains the step-by-step process, which includes third party checks and monitoring to make sure it's securely and transparently followed. Check it out:

<https://maring.org/news-events/pressemeddelelse-fiskemelsindustrien-med-ny-kontrol-film-som-europas-stoerste-producent-har-vi-et-saerligt-ansvar-2/>

Marine Stewardship Council Denmark held its annual commercial meeting on 1st December 2020

Note the interest in certification of pelagic fisheries in the Baltic, as well as discussion on the new Danish label for low impact fisheries and the consumer awareness of fish caught by trawls.

BSAC took part and made a report. The presentations are with the Secretariat.

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

Marine Stewardship Council Science and Research fund 2021

Offering funds to support projects that "deliver the essential research needed for MSC certified fisheries". For the 2020-2021 call, MSC welcomes applications related to particularly the following priority research areas:
Improving the effectiveness of harvest strategy/harvest control rules

Ensuring bait used by fishers to catch fish is sustainable sourced

<https://www.msc.org/for-business/fisheries/funding/science-and-research-fund>

OCEANA aren't happy with the outcome of the December Fisheries Council

17th December 2020

They point to the fact that 35% of the Atlantic fishing limits were set above unsustainable levels, and Mediterranean fisheries a victim of short-term approach.

<https://europe.oceana.org/en/press-center/press-releases/eu-fisheries-council-fails-ensure-sustainable-exploitation-fish-stocks>

Simrishamn goes under the Surface December 2020

This is the newsletter from the Marine Centre in Simrishamn, southern Sweden. They write about a new three year project they're starting on eutrophication of the Baltic; a new marine plan adopted by Simrishamn council (to look at marine environment and coastal issues); an initiative called Blue food to promote fish consumption and production (including aquaculture), and "if you can't beat them, eat them: the invasive

species round goby and what to do about them – planning to set up a project in 2021 to establish a value chain in Sweden, Latvia and Poland. Here:

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

WWF has shared its newsletter for December 2020

The editorial looks ahead to where we're all going and what objectives can be met, as the United Nations Decade of biodiversity 2011 – 2020 draws to a close. WWF highlights worsening trends in its own report and the report from the European Environmental Agency. Next year will be a decisive year. The newsletter, which can keep you busy all Christmas, includes:

Interview with Ulf Bergström, marine ecologist and research at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences on his work on stickleback regime shifts along the Swedish coast of the Baltic Sea.

Eutrophication and restoring wetlands in Germany

A report on circularity in the agri-food chain

New water protection sites in Finland

Ray species in the Baltic

Harbour porpoise

WWF ghostdiver – a new science app to find ghost nets in the Baltic

Latvia on innovation in food (yes, fish and seafood)

Going underwater in Finland

Comments on the 2021 fisheries in the Baltic

Bottom trawling

Comments on MSC certification of the Baltic fisheries

Fears about new port construction in Finland

News from Brussels

<https://www.wwf.baltic.org/newsletter/wwf-baltic-newsletter-december-2020/>

