

We wrote to members for contributions by Friday 1st February 2019 and got a little bit of feedback and information: thank you.

Please let us have any news by Friday 1st March 2019.

BSAC news and meetings

The BSAC Working Group and the Executive Committee 28th and 29th January 2019 Copenhagen

Both meetings were very well attended and the BSAC is very grateful to Member States, Commission and Control Agency for sending representatives.

The Working Group met on 28th January 2019 to carry on the work with the proposal for a revision of the Control Regulation. Many of the issues that came up at the previous meeting on 23rd August 2018 came up again. The meeting did not get through to the end of the proposal (it got to Article 55) there were significant discussions on VMS, logbooks, prior notification and CCTV). Work will continue at a further meeting in the new BSAC year. The BSAC wants to speed up the process. The participants are conscious of the ambition in the Parliament's Pêche Committee to reach a conclusion and vote in April before the end of the current term of the Parliament and elections in May. See information here. The report will follow asap (subject to final approval by the WG participants):

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-working-group-control-reg>

The Executive Committee meeting on 29th January 2019 dealt with important administrative and management issues: in particular, it adopted the draft budget and work programme for the year 2019 – 2020 (to start on 1st April). As soon as all the membership payments are received, the Secretariat will send the application for funding to DG Mare. It also adopted some terms of reference for a management team to facilitate the work of the BSAC and Secretariat. You can find them here at the bottom of the page:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC/About-the-BSAC>

The BSAC Theme Meeting which followed the ExCom meeting dealt with Eastern Baltic cod. The BSAC Ex Com chair introduced the session. This is a new initiative that he and the BSAC Management Team and ExCom have taken. In his view, it's very useful for the BSAC to zoom in on one particular area of work - in this case the eastern Baltic cod. Leading scientists and experts from around the Baltic were invited to share what they know about the problems affecting the eastern Baltic cod: from the recent surveys, from what they know about predators and about other ecosystem factors.

You can find the presentations here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(4\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(4))

The report and conclusions from the meeting will come soon, subject to approval by the meeting participants.

Right of reply to the January newsletter: fish as food and protein and differentiated judgement on seals and birds

Peter Breckling, Union of German Cutter Fishery has thanked us for the huge amount of news and material in the newsletter. Great job, he said. He added that there is one thing that should truly be reflected by BSAC: The work of Ray Hillborn on the (environmental) costs of food. It shows that wild caught fish is the most environmentally friendly source of animal protein for human consumption (he points out that you can see a lot of nice things on their website: <http://sustainablefisheries-uw.org/>)

For instance, in 2050, fish will play an important role in sustainable diets. 7th January 2019.

Moreover, Peter Breckling comments that on the work "seals and birds do not hamper commercially most important stocks in the Baltic" needs differentiated judgement: Seals and birds feed mostly in coastal areas and reduce fish in coastal waters significantly as much as I read the papers on that issue. That means it hurts specifically the small-scale fisheries while of course the bigger vessels in the open sea will not see a reduction of their sprat-, herring- and cod-catches far away from the coast... It is in the data that some coastal fish also targeted by small scale fisheries are reduced up to 50% on the fishing grounds of the small-scale fishermen.

BSAC working Group on ecosystem based management 13th March 2019

We're expecting this to be focusing on fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas. To be confirmed once the WG chair has finalized an agenda. This meeting will take place in Copenhagen. We don't know if eel will come onto this agenda - the Commission's Consultation on eel is running until 8th March 2019.

ExCom and General Assembly 14th and 15th May 2019: Copenhagen

The dates are confirmed and the meeting room at the Danish Agriculture and Food Council has been reserved. It will be an afternoon meeting on 14th May (from about 14hrs to 17hrs) and morning meeting on 15th May (from about 9hrs to 12/13 hrs).

The questionnaire on marine bioinvasions: reminder

We've been reminded by Henn Ojaveer from Estonia and who is now one of the ICES ACOM vice chairs and with responsibility for ecosystem issues and matters. He has again asked the BSAC to consider responding to the short survey on marine bioinvasions futures, which can be found at (please select English language) <https://www.invasivesnet.org/news/detail.php?ID=1335>. We are asked to spread the word amongst colleagues and contacts, who might be willing to respond to the survey. Henn Ojaveer is from the University of Estonia and with whom the BSAC has had a collaboration through projects (remember the project INSPIRE?) has written to the BSAC Secretariat. We informed members about this in December 2018. Piotr Gruszka of the Polish Ecological Club has taken this onboard.

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

BALTFISH Symposium on seals 19th- 20th March 2019 Gothenburg

Please see the draft programme for this symposium:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/BALTFISH-Conference-on-seals>

BALTFISH has invited a speaker from the BSAC to this and the BSAC has confirmed Nils Höglund as chair of the EBM WG to do this. In addition, three BSAC members can take part, and the list of candidates will be finalised with the chair.

BALTFISH consultation of the BSAC on the Recommendation amending the Joint Recommendation on T90 from May 2017. Deadline 4th February 2019: the words "at least" are now to be included in the T90 cod end specifications!

Sent to us on Friday 18th January 2019 for consultation with the BSAC was a draft Joint recommendation from BALTFISH and an annex containing a correction to the scientific report from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences LU that was annexed to a BALTFISH Joint Recommendation from May 2017. Sent to the BALTFISH Chair was a letter from Fisheries Director Sara Colliander regarding the consultation with the BSAC on a draft Joint Recommendation amending the Joint Recommendation on T90 from May 2017. The ExCom was informed, and it was referred to at the ExCom meeting on 29th January. The BSAC chair has written back to take note and thank BALTFISH for their work.

Letter from BALTFISH replying to the letter on trade in seal products

Sent to the Secretariat on Thursday 17th January 2019, please find attached a letter from BALTFISH and the Fisheries Director Sara Colliander as a reply to a letter sent by the BSAC last year regarding the ban on trade in seal products. The letter is here, together with the letter and reply from DG Mare:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/The-BSAC-proposes-an-amendment-to-the-Regulation->(

Council/Commission/ European Parliament / Control Agency news

What's the Romanian Presidency got up its sleeve for fisheries for first half 2019?

From its policy paper:

Regarding the Common Fisheries Policy, the Romanian Presidency will continue work on the multiannual management plans, with the purpose of making progress in debates and achieving a political agreement with the European Parliament.

The Presidency will deploy all efforts to advance the discussions on the proposal for a Regulation to amend the Control Regulation and the future Regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund post-2020.

The external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy remains an important priority of the Romanian Presidency programme.

The European Anglers Alliance gives some more detail on the Romanian Presidency programme:

Gives a very nice summary 25th January 2019

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/13125/romania-s-eu-council-presidency-presents-fisheries-priorities.html>

Note the reference to cormorants: this came up at the EUROFISH Governing Council meeting, raised by Romania.

DG Mare said goodbye to its ACs coordinator Amalia de Diego de la Vega

After almost 29 years in the Commission and out of them more than 26 in DG XIV/FISH/MARE, Amalia has retired. **Mounia Belhaj** will take over in assisting Pascale Colson to efficiently coordinate the contacts with the ACs.

DG Mare reported on Voluntary protection of harbour porpoises and diving ducks in the Baltic 17/12/18 (a bit late)

The December story was on a conservation project off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein, in Germany, financed through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The project is helping to support local fishermen, ecologists and administrative bodies in adopting measures to protect harbour porpoises and diving ducks.

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/voluntary-protection-harbour-porpoises-and-diving-ducks-baltic_en

The Commission and a press release on single use plastics 19/12/18

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have reached a provisional political agreement on the ambitious new measures proposed by the Commission to tackle marine litter at its source, targeting the 10 plastic products most often found on our beaches as well as abandoned fishing gear.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6867_en.htm

Brexit preparedness: European Commission adopts two contingency proposals to help mitigate impact of “no-deal” Brexit on EU fisheries 23/1/19

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-584_en.htm

Europeans love local seafood

The Eurobarometer survey on EU consumer choices regarding fishery and aquaculture products is clear: Europeans love fish and other seafood. More than four out of ten Europeans eat seafood at least once a week at home. Price and availability are the main barriers to increase consumption. Regional, national and

EU products enjoy a very strong consumer preference. The study also explains how EU policy helps building trust with consumers, mainly by reliable and useful consumer information.

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/europeans-love-local-seafood-eu-consumer-insights-study-confirms_en

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, evaluating its statistics on fisheries catches, landings and aquaculture

This is the last time we remind. The evaluation was launched to produce a thorough analysis of the current European fisheries statistics system. The aim is to identify improvements that could be made to European fisheries statistics. Public and expert consultation is an integral part of the evaluation. For this reason, **we would like to invite you** – as an expert on fisheries and aquaculture statistics and/or fisheries and aquaculture generally – **to complete a short online questionnaire on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics**. The link to the questionnaire will be sent to you in a separate email, from the contractor *Coffey International* who are assisting Eurostat with the evaluation. We would be grateful if you could participate in this evaluation with your expertise and insight. As part of this evaluation, we have designed an online survey to gather feedback from those who produce and use European Fishery Statistics. Through this survey we seek to better understand EFS user needs, and the challenges encountered in producing the statistics. You will have already received an email from Eurostat regarding this survey and inviting you to participate. All of your responses will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be shared with anyone without your express permission. The survey should take around 15 minutes to complete. To begin the survey please click on the link below: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KHKRJ2P>

Thank you in advance for your effort and time on completing this questionnaire. If you wish to share or forward this invitation to colleagues who also have an interest in EFS please feel free to do so. Should you experience any difficulties with the survey please contact: Maciej.Czos@coffey.com

The European Parliament PECH Committee 23rd and 24th January 2019: focus on the revision of the Control Regulation and a Hearing on small scale fisheries

Two key issues in Baltic eyes and worth listening to if one has the time.

The public hearing on small scale fishing (SSF) was organised after requests from several political groups in the Committee. The wish is to improve the resources available to this sector. The meeting was organised into two panels:

1. Measures to support the small scale fisheries, with presentations by small scale representatives from Ireland and the Azores
2. The role of small scale fisheries in the national allocation, with presentations by representatives from the Adriatic, Galicia, and the Baltic, (Kaj Arne Schmidt from Kutter Fisch Centralen, www.kutterfisch.de)

The Commission DG Mare started off, by stating that 75% of the EU fleet is small scale, in 2016 there were 80,000 small scale fishers (½ of the employment in fisheries). The sector SSF shapes the socio-economic life of the small scale coastal communities. But there are challenges:

Although EU stocks have become more sustainable and fuel prices have been falling, this has not been the case for the SSF, where things have been stagnating.

The lack of a voice for the SSF: and she gave examples of what the EU does to take the sector into account, e.g. preferential access inside 12nm, exemptions from some of the obligations of the Control Regulation, the fact that the EMFF has to have an action plan for the SSF.

The SSF has a role to play in the blue economy, for example with the FLAGs and bottom up approaches. The role that the SSF can play means that in return it has to provide data. The future of the SSF is that coastal areas should be filled with vibrant communities, but stocks must be healthy: we have to work together.

The presentations from Azores, Ireland, Galicia, Adriatic and Baltic showed just how diverse the SSF are, how different the working conditions, manning on board, species caught, fishing methods used, challenges and relations with government, administration and public. Too much to summarise here. There were diverse questions put to the speakers. But for the Baltic: Kaj Arne said that the 1082 boats are most one man operated, day trips, fishing mostly in the Baltic. He explained how the quotas are distributed, Fishing is with gillnets and the quality of the fish is high. But there are fewer and fewer entering the fishery, hard to recruit the

young generation, and the vessels are getting old. There's a lot of discussion about Natura 2000 areas: this is the hot topic; there are areas of illegal fishing and there's a lot of negative reporting of bycatches and discards – this is not done by the SSF, but it's hard for the consumer to distinguish. And there's marine litter.

There was no summing up from this meeting. But in general, there were points of agreement that emerged amongst the speakers: need for EMFF funding to keep the sector alive, support from administrations, need for quotas, what to do about the seals in certain waters, how to control and monitor the small-scale vessels, what exactly is a small scale vessel. And so on.

The Committee chair Alain Cadec thanked everyone for the information provided. We will look out for the presentations on the PECH website.

The Commission's proposal for a revised Control Regulation: how far has work got in the PECH Committee?

This is the second time the report comes up. **The rapporteur Isabelle Thomas S&D** said this revision is following an own initiative opinion from the Committee in 2016: calling for simplification and harmonisation. They regret that Commission proposal came so late. But the Parliament aims to adopt its first reading before the end of current mandate. In 2016 they voted in Plenary: in favour of simplification – in particular greater harmonisation. She went through the key elements of the proposal and what's important for her. The shadow rapporteurs also had their turn to speak. There's a lot more debate yet to be had. And there are lots of suggestions. The chair asked for amendments by 5th February 2019.

NOTE: The Next Fisheries Committee meeting is Tuesday, 19th February 2019 and with a Public hearing on:

"First Assessment of the implementation of the Landing Obligation" and Presentation of the study by Policy Department B : "The economic impacts of the European eel conservation versus sustainable use"

PECH Newsletter: Trawler – January 2019

This is prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries. You can find it on the PECH website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/newsletters.html#menuzone>

Implementation and impact of key EMFF measures on the Common Fisheries Policy 25/1/19

This is a research study (136 pages) on the current performance of the shared management component of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and its impact on the Common Fisheries Policy. Based on quantitative data collection as well as on interviews with Managing Authorities of Member States and stakeholders. It also analyses the legislative proposal for the post-2020 EMFF and seeks to support the Members of the PECH Committee of the EU Parliament in their consideration.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629187/IPOL_STU\(2019\)629187_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629187/IPOL_STU(2019)629187_EN.pdf)

There was a workshop dealing with this in the PECH Committee on 24th January 2019. Haven't had the chance to follow this one. See the programme and presentations here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/events-other.html?id=20190115EOT03521>

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Advisory Board meeting 27th February Brussels: notification

We have confirmation of the meeting, to take place in the morning. The Ex Com and Management Team have been informed and asked to advise if there are any issues to be brought up. The BSAC chair is taking part. See agenda here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-meeting-\(2\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-meeting-(2))

EFCA Administrative Board 10th April 2019: where?

This meeting is announced, but we have no more information. The BSAC chair will be representing all the Advisory Councils at this meeting (it rotates every year from AC to AC)

News from other ACs

Not that we know of.

Meetings EU related

ICES benchmark on west and east cod 4th -8th February 2019

There's now just one meeting and the draft agenda is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/ICES-Benchmark-workshop-on-Baltic-cod>

Representing the BSAC are Michael Andersen and Nils Höglund.

The ICES meetings with the Advisory Councils and stakeholders: MIAC and MIACO 17th-18th January 2019 Copenhagen: short report

The Secretariat produced a short report from this meeting. Those representing the BSAC were Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, Michael Andersen and Nils Höglund. Full, more detailed reports will follow (but not from our hands).

New format of ICES advice Single stock advice

The current format of the single stock advice sheets was introduced in 2015. ICES has initiated a work to create an interactive web-based platform for presenting advice. ICES presented this at the MIACO meeting and you can see some here, hoping the links still work:

https://ices-tools-dev.github.io/VISA_tool/hke.27.3a46-8abd.html

https://ices-tools-dev.github.io/VISA_tool/bli.27.5b67.html

https://ices-tools-dev.github.io/VISA_tool/her.27.25-2932.html

https://ices-tools-dev.github.io/VISA_tool/nep.fu.11.html

ICES WKBALTIC: workshop on the ecosystem based management of the Baltic Sea announcement dates and terms of reference

This is a special meeting planned for 2019. Please see the terms of reference here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/WKBALTIC>

Other meetings and news

The DiscardLess project ending 30th - 31st January 2019 Copenhagen: who replied

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Discardless-Final-meeting-of-project>

Michael Andersen and Lindsay Keenan represented the BSAC, as well as the Secretariat on the first day. A report from the first day is attached. ./ and we can update when we get some input from MA and LK. ./

A bit more on eel from the Mediterranean

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) informed on its recent GFCM decision for the management of European eel in the Mediterranean. At its 42nd annual meeting in 2018, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) adopted Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/1 establishing management measures for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla* L.) in the Mediterranean Sea. These measures are already implemented at EU level through Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007. The Recommendation also includes an annual closure period of three consecutive months which needs to be

transposed into EU law and defined by each Member State in accordance with the conservation objectives of Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, its management plan(s) for eel and the temporal migration patterns of eel in the Member State. The closure shall apply to all marine waters of the Mediterranean and to brackish waters such as estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters, in accordance with the Recommendation. The WG on EBM management seems happy with it. The BSAC EBM WG chair comments that he views this as a good step forward in some parts and in part reflects what is agreed on in the BSAC: more balance area-wise and cover glass eel. Attached [./.](#)

A conference on fully documented fisheries in Denmark 26.02.2019

The conference will address the challenge of achieving full compliance with the landing obligation. It will look at Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) as a cost-effective option to control compliance with the landing obligation. The Executive Secretary will take part and report back from the meeting. Chair and vice chair can't go. We haven't seen an agenda yet.

Marelitt Final Conference 20th and 21st March 2019 Stockholm: announcement

Please see the announcement of this conference on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/MARELITT-Baltic-Final-Conference>

No decision taken on representation to this meeting from the BSAC

But the BSAC has just sent a letter of support for a second phase of MARELITT – this was discussed at Ex Com and approved, for the sake of consistency, although the general view from the BSAC is not to give blanket support to all projects.

A Conference on salmon management 20th – 21st March 2019 Luleå

Glenn Douglas, European Anglers Alliance has asked the BSAC to inform about this conference, which is in Swedish:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Conference-on-tomorrow-s-salmon-management>

Some HELCOM stuff

HELCOM FISH 30th and 31st January 2019: who and what

Nils Höglund represented the BSAC at this meeting and did a very good job.

Of particular interest on the agenda are: cooperation with the BSAC sub group on ecosystem-based management. The FISH 6 meeting 2017 agreed to establish cooperation with the BSAC sub group on ecosystem based management, regarding the development and trials of alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques in the Baltic Sea. The BSAC informed the Meeting on the outcome of the **ICES WKMSIGD 2018 workshop on methods for stakeholder involvement in fishing gear development** hosted by the BSAC in May 2018. Also **Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems** (Seals-fishery interactions). It was agreed to hold a workshop on seal-fisheries interactions. This could provide an opportunity to discuss solutions, recognizing the different point of views on the topic. The BSAC informed the meeting about the work and discussions that have taken place on seal-fishery interactions within the BSAC. If you want the final report from the meeting please contact HELCOM or BSAC Secretariat.

Nils Höglund informed that the HELCOM meeting, the discussion was partly about how the 2 seal meetings will be separate/distinguish/but yet stay coordinated. Initial thinking is that BALTFISH is more towards fisheries and HELCOM is aiming at a wider consideration of the Baltic ecosystem, what Good Environmental Status is or should be. He repeated BSACs interest in helping in preparations of the HELCOM workshop, so have Poland and Finland etc but Denmark has the lead on it (and at least the current Danish Minister Eva Kjer Hansen is interested in it). He also adds that the meeting focused on updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan and assessing the planned process, as well as relevant inputs of new actions/measures and considering existing and not yet accomplished actions. Also, the meeting discussed ongoing activities in other groups, for example the one considering the data needs to be able to finalise indicators for unwanted bycatch/drowned animals and bottom impacts. The difficulties with seals was discussed and planning for upcoming meetings was discussed.

Note that HELCOM is planning a HELCOM workshop on seal-fisheries interactions on 27th June 2019. The next HELCOM FISH meeting is 25th-26th June 2019.

First Meeting of the Continuation of the Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management (FISH-PRO III 1-2019), Helsinki, Finland, 12-14 February 2019

The First Meeting of the Continuation of the Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management (FISH-PRO III 1-2019) will be held at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6 B), in Helsinki, Finland, on 12-14 February 2019.

EUROFISH just held its Governing Council 31st January and 1st February 2019 NOW WITH THIRTEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES

The BSAC Secretariat was invited again this year and attended the first day of the meeting. A short report attached [./](#).

We reported back in November from an afternoon seminar on a sustainable fishery in the Sound. Swedish fisheries representatives met in Denmark to hear about experience of the Danish small scale coastal fishery, in particular the Association for Low Impact fishery. This is from a one day (or afternoon) under the LEADER project 30th November 2018 (find in November newsletter). All the presentations and participants list have been uploaded onto the website, sorry most of it in Swedish and Danish:

<http://www.leadernordvastraskane.se/nyheter/2017/06/14/ett-hallbart-fiske-oresund/>

Other information/reading

Controversial European policy bans ships from throwing unwanted fish overboard Erik Stokstad 4th Jan 2019: Article in Science 4th January 2019 about the landing obligation (thank you Krzysztof Stanuch)

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/01/controversial-european-policy-bans-ships-throwing-unwanted-fish-overboard>

Promoting sustainable fishing and using light emitting devices

Can light emitting devices lower fishing bycatch by 90%? Safety net technologies will tell you more about PISCES project during the 1st pitching session in Malta.

http://sntech.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR1DACvdW5djlZyvU0jz_2OWnEoP3eS-fJRXDXB3ojYf5G1rWX_imDtCAow

Current issue of the EUROFISH magazine - note the article on eel

<http://eurofishmagazine.com/magazine-issues/current-issue/item/525-eurofish-magazine-issue-6-2018-november-december>

and on p. 59 Will eel be soon off the menu?

Article (December 2018 No. 6/2018) Europe struggling to save the eel population

“While even scientists are at a loss when asked to give reasons give reasons for the current plight of the eel, some people are sure they already have the solution to the problem. There must be a ban on fishing if the species is to survive. But things aren't that easy, for professional and recreational fishermen have not done any noticeable damage to the eel population for centuries. /.../ Due to the long and complex life cycle of eels it was already clear when the management plans were drawn up that measurable results could only be expected after many years, probably even decades. Anyone who makes their living from fishing quickly learns to be patient. Politicians often lack this virtue, but now they should give eel management plans a little more time.”

Science magazine on the landing obligation

Quote: "Long before fillets reach your dinner plate, lots of seafood is thrown away. Overboard, actually. As fishing crews sort through their catches, they toss unwanted fish back into the sea—as much as 20% of the global catch. The vast majority die. On 1 January, the wasteful practice became illegal in waters of the European Union. Scientists believe the policy will lead to more efficient fisheries and eventually boost stocks. But in the short term it could mean hardship for the industry and perhaps even compromise fisheries data, because almost all crews can discard fish without anyone knowing. "This is one of the most dramatic changes in EU fisheries policy," says Peder Andersen, an economist at the University of Copenhagen.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/01/controversial-european-policy-bans-ships-throwing-unwanted-fish-overboard>

New EU rules could have 'grave' impact on UK industry 31/12/19

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46718663?fbclid=IwAR1y4nJNRTVkJZ-f1ZqKz8yMw13wqldl5-CV5LOolZm1XNGPivfEzkcBvIIE>

New EU rules on fishing quotas could have a "grave" impact on the UK's fishing industry, a House of Lords committee has said - just a day before the new policy is introduced.

Under previous rules, crews often discarded, into the sea, fish that took them over their quota for that species. But under the new policy, fishers must bring the full haul back to shore. This change is to stop fish being wasted.

The legislation has been called "badly designed" by UK industry bodies.

The House of Lords EU Energy and Environment sub-committee heard evidence that the legislation could mean fishermen hitting their annual quotas much earlier in the year and have to stop fishing.

The committee was told this would be particularly problematic in "mixed fisheries" where it would be hard for boats to avoid catching a fish species for which they have a very low quota.

Once they reached their quota for a particular species, fishers would be forced to choose between halting operations for the rest of the year or breaking the law by continuing to fish for other species and discarding anything over quota.

EUMOFA (European market observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products) has recently published the study "**Factors affecting cross-border investments in EU aquaculture**". The study is available in English.

DTU Aqua's Director Fritz Köster is the new President of ICES 8th January 2019

http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2019/01/ny-praesident-for-ices?id=b8412a1a-9782-4387-8945-27c3235f9028&utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

for three years until the end of October 2021. Read more from ICES 3rd January 2019

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/New-president.aspx>

DTU Aqua on new cooperation around plastic in the sea

DTU Aqua is working together with four other research institutes to investigate the consequences of plastic in the sea and the need for new legislation. It's in Danish:

http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2018/12/nyt-samarbejde-om-plastforurening-i-havet?id=f645c84c-d1d2-46aa-8d1b-b6029f87e91a&utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

Sustainable Fisheries: in 2050 fish will play an important role in sustainable diets

<https://sustainablefisheries-uw.org/fish-will-play-an-important-role-in-sustainable-diets/>

Clean Nordic Oceans network: two bits of news

1. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is considering an improvement of their MSC Fisheries Standard requirements around ghost gear

This could increase requirements of knowledge on gear loss and the impact of lost gear on habitats, ecosystems or species of concern.

Read more at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/msc-fisheries-standard-might-improve-requirements-around-ghost-gear>

2. Danish action plan against plastic pollution

In order to strengthen recycling of plastics and protect nature and the environment against pollution, the Danish government has launched an action plan

Read more at:

<http://cnogear.org/news/english/danish-action-plan-against-plastic-pollution> (in English)
<http://cnogear.org/news/nordiske-sprak/plastikhandlingsplan-fra-den-danske-regering>

The necessity of a holistic approach when managing marine mammal-fisheries interactions: Environment and fisheries impact are stronger than seal predation.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13280-018-1131-y>

Seal populations are recovering in many regions around the world and, consequently, they are increasingly interacting with fisheries. We used an Ecopath with Ecosim model for the offshore Central Baltic Sea to investigate the interactions between the changes in fish stocks and grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) population under different fishing and environmental scenarios for the twenty-first century. The assumed climate, eutrophication and cod (*Gadus morhua*) fisheries scenarios modified seal predation impacts on fish. Fish biomass and catches are more affected by fishing mortality and the environment than by seal predation. Our results highlight that the impacts of the increasing seal population on lower trophic levels are complex; thus, we emphasize the need to consider a range of possible ecosystem contexts when evaluating potential impacts of top predators. Finally, we suggest that an increasing seal population is not likely to hinder the preservation of the main Baltic fish stocks.

<http://www.fiskerforum.dk/erhvervsnyt/a/udskaldte-saeler-frifindes-for-manglende-fisk-i-oestersoen-09012018>

EMODNET is starting a new year and reporting to all on its work and activities during 2018

European Marine Observation and Data Network

Ocean observing and data collection

A new deputy hear at the secretariat

European Atlas of the Seas

<https://mailchi.mp/emodnet/a-new-year-and-new-dynamic-for-emodnet?e=6d2d4570d3>

LIFE

The new EU fisheries fund must stay on course to help small-scale fishers! How to define the small scale?

Brussels, 16th January 2019, Brian O’Riordan and Marcin Ruciński.

LIFE calls on MEPs to reject amendments 10, 19, and 39, of the Commission’s proposal to the Fisheries Fund, which aim to expand the definition of small-scale fisheries and create an uneven playing field across Europe. These amendments are proposed by the rapporteur for the report Gabriel Mato.

Imperfect as it is, given the great diversity of small-scale fleets, the simple definition – under 12 metres and not using towed fishing gears – offers some basic clarity, a level-playing field and comparability of fisheries across the EU. More at:

<http://lifeplatform.eu/vote-on-the-2021-2027-emff/?fbclid=IwAR0woOC42aUqEvPzIspdf3e3lfyvy9lbcH8pztcx9gYvsAsjtNt9BVv40j>

EMFF must maintain support for small-scale fishing, says LIFE (FiskerForum, 20th January 2019)

http://fiskerforum.dk/en/news/b/emff-must-maintain-support-for-small-scale-fishing-says-life?fbclid=IwAR2Y89Ma8gMqNA_H-toewj2DvqadYypLWS9yqfL2G6r9x_pKyd0P8ukaN7c

FishSec

20 measures for 2020

Published on January 15, 2019

In a letter to Environment Ministers concerning lagging implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, NGOs have highlighted 20 measures that can help to achieve the obligations the EU has committed to. <https://www.fishsec.org/2019/01/15/20-measures-for-2020/>

FishSec: In October 2018 Rigrevisionen – the Danish Public Accounts Committee – published a report concerning the management of support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to the Danish Fisheries sector in the period 2014-2017.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2019/01/24/translation-danish-public-accounts-committee-report-on-support-to-the-fisheries-sector-from-the-emff/>

From Nils Hoglund: Article on animal welfare on seals and hunting A review of seal killing practice in Europe: Implications for animal welfare:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X17307303?via%3Dihub>

Marine Stewardship Council suspends mackerel label (not Baltic, but newsworthy)

The MSC certification for all North East Atlantic mackerel fisheries will be suspended on Saturday 2nd March 2019. This was announced today through the release of an expedited audit report for all North East Atlantic mackerel fisheries in the MSC programme. Mackerel caught on or after 2nd March 2019 cannot be sold as 'MSC certified' or bear the label. The suspension affects all 4 certificates, for fisheries across 8 countries.

The suspension comes after the mackerel stock in the northeast Atlantic dropped below a precautionary threshold level, while catches remain far higher than advised by scientists. The drop in stock triggered an expedited audit by the independent certifiers in November 2018 and the report from that audit was published on 31st January 2019.

<https://www.msc.org/media-centre/press-releases/press-release/msc-certificates-suspended-for-all-north-east-atlantic-mackerel-fisheries>

From Baltic Sea 2020, they report on a debate article that they've contributed towards on: "Drastic decisions needed for the fishery in the Baltic" 1/2/19

It leads you to an article in the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet where it reports on the new minister of the Environment Isabella Lövin and the Swedish ambitions to save the cod in the Baltic. It reports that there's a majority in the Swedish parliament, but now they must get involved in the EU processes. (It's in Swedish)

<http://balticsea2020.org/pressrum/736-debattartikel-drastiska-beslut-kravs-for-fisket-i-ostersjon>

The Fisheries Secretariat does its reporting on the Discardless Conference 31/1/19

<https://www.fishsec.org/2019/01/31/discardless-the-closing-science-policy-conference/>

"Branch uproar about illegal discarding by fishermen"

A leader from the President of the Swedish Fishermen PO Peter Ronelöv Olsson about a joint complaint made by WWF, Axfood, Coop, ICA and a couple of other retailers to the Swedish politicians. 31/1/19

He says fisheries policy, including decisions on CCTV monitoring, is decided under the CFP by all Member States. He adds that the complaints made by the above organisations are based on old data. Criticisms aimed at the Swedish fishermen are unjustified: Sweden has been praised by the Commission for being well organised in implementing the LO. And he calls on the retailers to put their own house in order and do something about food waste. It's in Swedish.

<https://www.sfpo.se/>

Goodbye to Eskild Kirkegaard, DTU Aqua and outgoing chair of ICES ACOM.

He retired and we went to say good bye (with chocolates) and happy retirement at a reception on Friday 18th January 2019. He said he always valued the good cooperation with the BSAC.