

Dear members,

The next time we write to you will be in the beginning of the new BSAC year 2019-2020, starting on 1st April 2019. The Commission has written to inform that it's approved the draft estimated expenditure for the year to come, and that it's currently reviewing the draft work programme. These two documents will be presented at the ExCom and General Assembly on 14th and 15th May 2019 for approval. We hope you note the dates and **ALREADY NOW** start to plan your journeys and book hotel. Thank you already to those who've been confirming this.

We say goodbye at the end of the year to the European Transport Workers Federation: they have decided not to renew their membership. They've been with the BSAC for many years and it will be hard to imagine them no longer being within the BSAC. That means the membership will be at 41.

As we go into the new year, please read or refresh your minds about the BSAC's personal data policy - on the welcome page at the bottom:

<http://www.bsac.dk/>

One change within the fisheries management of Gotland (regional co-management of fisheries) is that Rolf Gydemo retired, and has been replaced by Andreas Pettersson as fisheries consultant; he also works as the Blått Centrum Gotland www.campusgotland.uu.se/samverkan/bcg

We wrote to members for contributions by Friday 1st March 2019.
Please let us have any news by 1st April 2019.

BSAC news and meetings

The BSAC made a busy start to the new year 2019 with two well attended meetings on highly relevant and important issues: the Commission's proposal for a revised control proposal and the status of the eastern Baltic cod

The BSAC Working Group on the control proposal 28th January 2019 Copenhagen

This was the second meeting held by the BSAC and this time it got into the nitty gritty of the Articles in the proposal – it got as far as Article 55. There are still a lot of Articles to go and the BSAC will be planning a further meeting into the start of the new BSAC year. The WG chair will report on progress to the ExCom meeting on 14th May 2019. Please find a comprehensive report here:

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

The Executive Committee 29th January 2019 Copenhagen

Apart from the important management and administrative business, dealt with by ExCom members, the meeting took note of forthcoming activities and meetings of the BSAC as well as external meetings, it agreed to give support to a new phase of the MARELITT project which deals with the removal of derelict fishing gear in the Baltic, and at the same time agreed to draft a statement from the BSAC on projects. It took note of information from the Swedish Presidency of BALTFISH.

The Theme meeting on eastern Baltic cod was well attended and gave the BSAC the chance to invite several scientists and researchers within the field to provide latest data on the fishery and state of the stock, as well as other influences such as predators and ecosystem influences. The Danish minister for fisheries unable to come, but sent a copy of her speech; she has informed that she'll come to the May meetings.

Reports from the entire meeting as well as presentations and speeches are on the website:

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

You can find the BSAC statement about projects on the BSAC website at the bottom of the welcome page:

<http://www.bsac.dk/>

BSAC working Group on ecosystem based management 13th March 2019

The meeting will focus on fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas. This meeting will take place in Copenhagen. The date for registering is now closed. Many members have signed up, as well as Member States. Specific invitations went to the Commission, Denmark, Sweden and HELCOM to come and give more detailed presentations on the work relating to fisheries management in the Natura 2000 areas in the Baltic.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Working-Group-on-Ecosystem-Based-Management>

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD INTO THE NEW BSAC YEAR – PLEASE TAKE NOTE AND START TO PLAN YOUR TRAVEL AND SIGN UP!

Executive Committee 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 13hrs to 17hrs) and morning meeting on 15th May (from about 9hrs to 13 hrs). The invitation was sent on 1st March 2019. The agendas will follow.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-and-General-Assembly>

REPEAT: hotel prices especially get expensive, so please book asap.

Joint Working Group on 11th and 12th June 2019: Copenhagen

Again, the dates are confirmed and the venue is the same as above. You've all received the invitation.

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group-\(1\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group-(1))

All you have to do is sign up asap and plan your journey asap.

Focus Group to review the BSAC statutes and propose necessary amendments 18th March 2019: Copenhagen

It was agreed by the BSAC Executive Committee in November 2018 to create this Group and do the work, which has to be ready to present to the General Assembly at its May meeting. The members of this Focus Group have been invited to this meeting, which will be led by the ExCom chair

And what about the Focus Group to deal with Western Baltic Herring?

The group its members and its work were confirmed at the ExCom meeting in January. Work has not yet started. The Chair underlined that it is not realistic that a rebuilding plan will be in place for the advice for 2020. Claus Reedz Sparrevohn, Danish Pelagic PO, member of the Focus Group is the expert on how to design a rebuilding plan. He has very kindly sent an update to the Secretariat and we share it with you here:

20th February 2019

“Here is an update on where we are at the moment with regards to developing a rebuilding plan for WBSS herring. It has been a little quiet from the rebuilding WBSS initiative for some time, but that is not the same as there has been no progress. There are two lines of development to be aware of:

The first one relates to a process in ICES on developing guidelines for Management Strategy Evaluations. In relation to that ICES held a workshop in Ispra (EU Joint Research Center) between Feb. 4th and 8th. At the WS, rebuilding plans were briefly (too briefly!) touched upon and no real conclusion on what criteria or methods to use was found. At the meeting Claus got the impression that ICES will in the near future hold another WS with a dedicated focus on rebuilding plans. However, no decision has been taken, but at least it tells that the subject is been considered by others than us and that there is some scope for developing a BSAC own approach and suggest criteria.

DTU Aqua - to be specific Vanessa Trijoulet from DTU Aqua - has develop a model framework where she is able to forecast the development of the WBSS under various exploitation assumptions. It is based on the

forecast, so predicting 10 years into the future must be considered maximum. Claus has had a meeting with her and the framework seems somewhat promising. So far she will try to evaluate what fishery that can be applied to the stock in 2020 on onwards, while still rebuilding the stock to Blim within one generation time. The generation time for WBSS is around 6.5 years. Even though it may be possible to use her work for achieving some kind of quota, one should be aware that she does find some worrying things such as in order for rebuilding to be certain, it will need quite some reduction in the fishery. She also found a strong indication that the present Fmsy (0.31) is too high. This was indicated since a scenario where the stock is kept unfished until Blim is reached and then fished according to the Fmsy approach will lead to an immediate decrease again after fishery has begun. Claus expects to meet with Vanessa Trijoulet again soon and then hopes to be able to share some actual results with BSAC colleagues.” Thank you Claus.

BSAC members: Travel claims to the Secretariat

Travel claims needed asap, so they can be paid and included in the final accounts by the end of the year 31st March 2019. Please note figures on the invoices that you send with the claims are used to calculate the refund. All claims from March meetings will have to be sent to the secretariat asap after the meetings.

BSAC members and Secretariat are reporting just for you from the meetings that they take part in. Read their reports here:

1. More Discardless from the final conference on 30th and 31st January 2019, Copenhagen

This extensive project is referred to in many different venues and contexts. Why? Because those who took part or followed it have seen the value of cooperation between the stakeholders and scientists on finding the best technical solutions possible to the challenges created by the Landing Obligation. Several speakers have wished for a continuation of this project. Michael Andersen and Lindsay Keenan attended the final conference and have added to the report. Find here:

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

2. The ICES west and east cod benchmark 4th to 8th February 2019, Copenhagen

ICES had the challenging task of benchmarking both stocks at this recent benchmark and two BSAC members took part and divided the work to follow both the western and the eastern cod. The final official report from ICES will not be ready until March, but it's important to read the report produced by these two members. Find their report here:

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

3. From the European Parliament PECH Committee

This was an important on-day meeting this month on 19th February and can be highlighted three topics of interest: eel, landing obligation and the proposal for revised control regulation. BSAC Secretariat has summarised some of the most interesting/relevant things. Find here:

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

4. From the Danish conference on Fully Documented Fisheries 26th February 2019, Copenhagen

This is an important issue for the Danish minister Eva Kjer Hansen. She invited experts, ministers, and stakeholders and fishermen from within the EU, as well as from Canada, Chile and Iceland. It's a subject closely linked to the implementation and working of the Landing Obligation. BSAC Secretariat has summarised some of the most interesting/relevant things. Find here:

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

5. From a Commission meeting on single use plastics 26th February 2019, Brussels

The single use plastics EU Directive is expected to be adopted by the end of March 2019. It will require some implementing measures. Check it out here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/single-use_plastics_proposal.pdf

It foresees the European standardization organization (CEN) to develop a standard on circular design of fishing gear. Before starting any work on standardization, the Commission wants to hear about experience with recycling fishing gears (including different components), accompanying challenges and solutions, best practices as well as views and suggestions on how such a standard can help to move towards circular use of end of life fishing gear. This meeting was of 45 minutes duration and we did everything we could to get involved. Jan Kappel of the EAA was able to attend, and we were able to secure webex access for Krzysztof Stanuch and the BSAC rapporteur. Thanks to that, we have an informative report to share:

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

The Commission also has news on this meeting, and entitles it Moving forward on EU measures for proper waste management of fishing gear - from 27th February 2019:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/4296>

From a shipwrecks conference, 27th February 2019, Warsaw – please find a short summary further below

Replying to the recommendations produced by the BSAC and sending recommendations

The reply from DG Mare to the follow up to the decisions taken by EU ministers at the October Fisheries Council 2018

The BSAC agreed to write a letter to both Commission and BALTFISH with questions that arose relating to the decisions taken on the TACs for the Baltic 2019. The letter was sent on 12th December 2019. Please find on the website a reply received on 12th February from DG Mare (we have forwarded this to BALTFISH):

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-with-comments-on-the-decisions-taken-a>

The BSAC responding to the Commission consultation on the evaluation of the eel regulation

This important consultation was brought up at the recent meeting of the BSAC ExCom on 29th January 2019. It was decided that given the nature of the electronic process for responding, the BSAC members should be encouraged to reply to the Commission consultation on eels individually. The ExCom also decided that the BSAC should send as its contribution to the on-line questionnaire the BSAC proposals that were finalised in 2017 on possible ways forward to improve the situation of European eel. The letter has been sent to Director General João Machado. Find it here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-responding-to-the-Commission-consultation-on>

Members are encouraged to reply to the Consultation by Friday 8th March 2019:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-1986447/public-consultation_en

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 will take part: Michael Andersen, Malin Lönnroth and Justyna Zajchowska.

Council/Commission/ European Parliament / Control Agency news

At last, there's agreement on the framework regulation on the technical measures: it took three years.

Press release from the Commission 13th February 2019

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1150_en.htm

The Commission proposal from 2016 aimed at a more flexible system of governance, empowering regional actors, who know their local context best, to customise technical conservation measures in their own sea basins. It also condensed a number of distinct Regulations into one single text, which should ease interpretation and facilitate compliance.

The press release says the new rules streamline the technical measures guiding how, where and when fishermen may fish, as well as determining the type of gear, catch composition and ways to deal with accidental catches.

Deal on technical measures: statement by EP lead negotiator, PECH newsletter 14/02/2019

A provisional deal on simplified and more flexible technical conservation measures for fishermen was reached between EP and Council negotiators.

Gabriel Mato (EPP, ES) rapporteur and lead negotiator for the EP said: "The agreement we reached after almost 3 years of hard work on how, where and when fishermen can fish allows for more flexible, simplified, results based, regionalised rules, tailored made to the specificities of each fishery and each sea basin. We move away from "micro-management" from Brussels, for which we have always been accused. The agreement is beneficial for everybody, especially - and most importantly – for fishermen. This means greater involvement of the sector in the decision making. This, in turn, means better legislation. On the controversial issue of pulse fishing, the deal is that this technique is banned. The deal provides also for a transitional period, so that fishermen have the time to adapt to the ban. And it does not impede the much needed innovation." Next steps The agreement needs to be confirmed by the Fisheries Committee and EP Plenary as well as the Council before it can enter into force. It's expected to be adopted and in force in June 2019.

Commission welcomes provisional political agreement on new technical conservation measures, PECH newsletter 13/02/2019

The European Parliament and the Council agreed on the Commission's proposal for decentralised and simplified technical rules, giving fishermen a stronger say in deciding on the best measures for sustainable fishing adapted to their specific needs. The regulation introduces quantitative indicators to determine the effectiveness of technical measures in reducing unwanted catches of juvenile fish, by-catches of mammals like whales, dolphins and porpoises, and marine seabirds, as well as indicators defining the impact on the marine habitat. This is a novel approach intended to lead to better overview of results and higher accountability by the operators. The agreement is also good news for cetaceans and seabirds with the extension of the obligation for Member States to introduce mitigation measures to avoid bycatches of seabirds, whales, dolphins and porpoises in all sea areas, when justified by scientific evidence.

European Parliament:

The PECH Newsletter: Trawler – February 2019 prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries is available on PECH website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/160861/Trawler%2019%20February%202019.pdf>

An excerpt from that PECH newsletter: Alain Cadec: In the February meeting, the Committee will also have to discuss two urgent "contingency measures" related to fisheries which are needed in case of a "no-deal" Brexit. As the deadline of 29th March approaches, we are aware that fisheries is one of the sectors that would be most affected by a "hard Brexit" scenario and our EU fishermen look with great worry at the fateful date. We never wished a "hard Brexit" to happen, but we have to be prepared for this eventuality and protect the interest of our EU fishermen by allowing the Member States to provide for compensation under the current EMFF programme.

Next Fisheries Committee meetings:

Thursday, 7 March (Brussels)

Monday, 25 March (Strasbourg)

Monday, 8 April (Brussels)

High-Level Conference on OCEANS "The Future of the Blue Planet" in the European Parliament, in Brussels, on 19 March 2019, 12:00-16:00

The High-Level Conference will discuss how to shape global ocean governance, how to ensure a sustainable blue economy and how to achieve healthy, clean seas and oceans by 2030. It will highlight the results of the EU's efforts in these areas and aim to inspire further action.

After the opening session, the conference will be structured around four themes:

1. Shaping global ocean governance for the future
2. A Sustainable Blue Economy, reducing pressures on the oceans
3. Achieving healthy, clean seas and oceans by 2030

Agenda: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/appendix/oceans/programme_high-level_conference_on_oceans_19032019.pdf

Registration: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20190213STO26336/future-of-the-blue-planet-parliament-conference-on-oceans>

Fisheries Control Agency EFCA news from its Advisory Board meeting, 27th February 2019, Brussels.

The BSAC chair took part and he reports from that meeting:

On REM – EFCA is providing a set of technical guidelines to Member States and the Commission for installing CCTV + GPS + other means of remote control and analysis of control data.

This will be presented ahead of the 10th April 2019 Administrative Board Meeting (the BSAC represents all ACs at this meeting).

The BSAC presented issues in relation to the work of the BSAC Working Group on the Control Regulation, and the BSAC Theme Meeting on cod in January. Also communicated input on reported discard rates and issues in relation to non-uniform sampling schemes and procedures in different Member States when it comes to unsorted catches.

EFCA gave a presentation on their operations. Its total costs equal 4 Euro cents per EU citizen. There are 19 nationalities in the staff, 46% women.

There is an increased trend in infringements on land, stable situation at sea .

EFCA has developed a risk-assessment scheme, based on a number of "objective" indicators – and this system is now being implemented in Member States.

News from other ACs

The NWWAC needs a new assistant Executive Secretary

Sara Vandamme, Deputy Executive Secretary is leaving the NWWAC at the end of March 2019. She's off to work at the University of Ghent, Belgium.

The job vacancy is on the NWWAC website in EN, FR and ES. See here:

http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Jobs/FINAL_NWWAC_Deputy_Executive_Secretary_2019.pdf

The NSAC is going to get a new Executive Secretary!

Announcement to be made any minute

Meetings EU related and news EU related

Seafood Expo Global, 07th - 09th May 2019, Brussels

Seafood Expo is the world's largest trade fair in the fisheries sector, with 1,850 exhibitors from 79 countries. The European Commission's stand will host several information sessions and events on topics relevant to the stakeholders, business people and retailers attending.

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/seafood-expo-global-2019_en

Launch event: CATCH – an EU database to facilitate the implementation of the catch certification scheme against Illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries

The catch certification scheme ensures that fishery products from third countries entering the EU market stem from legal sources. Catch certificates are required for each consignment of fishery products entering the EU territory. The European Commission has developed an IT tool to digitalise the current paper-based EU certification scheme against Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catch. CATCH will support Member States in their IUU-related verification tasks, to reduce the risk of fraud and to facilitate trade flows.

EUMOFA's Monthly Highlights N°1 – 2019,

News advisory

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8f50ddacc29d98ce55398bbd0/files/b5577196-20c6-4869-9bda-4a40a9f4c46b/MH_1_2019_EN.pdf?ct=t\(NEWS_ADVISORY_EUMOFA_Monthly_Highlights_2_018_COPY\)](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8f50ddacc29d98ce55398bbd0/files/b5577196-20c6-4869-9bda-4a40a9f4c46b/MH_1_2019_EN.pdf?ct=t(NEWS_ADVISORY_EUMOFA_Monthly_Highlights_2_018_COPY))

EUMOFA has released new species profiles that provide key market information and data for the most important species in the EU market, such as European hake, mussel and Norway lobster.

The 16 profiles include species descriptions and other qualitative information along with updated data on fisheries and aquaculture production, trade, consumption as well as prices throughout the supply chain.

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/new-species-profiles-key-information-eu-fisheries-and-aquaculture-markets_en

Other meetings and news

From ICES

Its February newsletter:

Read about fish forecasting:

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Cloudy-with-Passing-Schools-of-Tuna-.aspx>

The next ICES Annual Science Council 2019 in Gothenburg:

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/asc/asc2019/Pages/default.aspx>

ICES New Baltic Sea ecosystem overview published:

The Baltic Sea is the latest in the series of ICES ecosystem overviews.

Published: 18 February 2019

ICES Ecosystem Overviews describe the current state of ecosystems, identify the main human pressures, and explain how these pressures affect key ecosystem components. As a series, the overviews highlight the capacity of ICES to advance and shape ecosystem understanding.

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Baltic-Sea-ecosystem-overview.aspx>

The ICES ecosystem meeting in May WKBALTIC 20th-24th May 2019

This is an ICES workshop on the ecosystem-based management of the Baltic Sea. See terms of reference here:

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

MARELITT invites to their Final Conference 20th to 21st March 2019, Stockholm

For the last three years, partners in the MARELITT Baltic project have been working to reduce the impact of derelict fishing gear, ghost nets, in the Baltic Sea. The project has covered many aspects of the problem – such as mapping, retrieval, recycling and prevention. The result of our work is a handbook called The Baltic Sea Blueprint. It is a roadmap on how to approach derelict fishing gear in a sustainable way, both for today and for the future. It will be presented for the first time at the MARELITT Baltic Final Conference. Together with the project team, stakeholders and experts we will share our newfound knowledge and discuss all issues regarding mitigation measures of ghost fishing in the Baltic Sea. On behalf of the project group, and as the host of the conference, we would like to welcome you to the **MARELITT Baltic Final Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, 20–21st of March**. It's a two-day conference from lunch to lunch, free of charge.

More information is available on www.marelittbaltic.eu.

[Agenda for the conference »](#)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58525fe86a4963931b99a5d1/t/5c6fdbaa15fcc061efeed5c7/1550834603415/MARELITT+Baltic+agenda.pdf>

[Registration »](#)

Please register before the 5th of March!

Best regards,

Andreas Frössberg

Project leader MARELITT Baltic

Keep Sweden Tidy

Other information/reading

HELCOM

Not sure we reported on the outcome of the HELCOM FISH Environment Committee of 30th -31st January 2019

It's worth reading, because the BSAC pops up a few time and Nils Höglund represented the BSAC:

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

For other HELCOM meetings, please go to the HELCOM site www.helcom.fi

Marine Stewardship Council news on improving confidence in MSC fisheries standard

On 4th February 2019, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) opens three consultations offering stakeholders 60 days to comment on proposals to improve confidence that the MSC Fisheries Standard is being applied consistently. The consultations focus on three components of the MSC's Fisheries Certification Process: conditions, addressing disagreement and expedited audits.

<https://www.msc.org/media-centre/press-releases/press-release/msc-opens-three-consultations-to-increase-assurance>

INTRAFISH also reported on this MSC consultation on February 5th 2019 and informed that result of the reviews could change MSC's requirements from 2020. The first criteria under public review is "conditions," which lays out the conditions given to fisheries who meet the MSC's basic standards but not the best practice standards seeking to continue their certified status. The other two components under review are "addressing disagreement with expert judgement" and "expedited audits." In the addressing disagreements section, the MSC is asking stakeholders to give proposals on how to address areas on which scientists, conformity assessment bodies and peer reviewers do not agree, including submitting statements and exploring arbitration mechanisms. The expedited audit consultation seeks to review mechanisms to conduct audits outside the regular schedule when new information about a fishery comes up. All three consultations close on April 3, and any resulting changes to the MSC's requirements will be released in 2020.

A bit more on Marine Stewardship Council: an NGO report gives MSC failing grade on bird bycatch 18th February 2019

From BirdLife International: A new report shows that Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainable seafood certification scheme needs to do more to tackle bycatch of threatened species in certified fisheries. Only one of the MSC-certified fisheries reviewed clearly demonstrated a sustained reduction in bycatch levels, according to the review. Seafood carrying the well-known Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) ecolabel may not be as sustainable as consumers think. According to a new review by BirdLife International, being certified by the MSC does not guarantee that a fishery is addressing the incidental capture, or 'bycatch', of marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles, sharks and rays. Here's the news:

<https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/seafood-certification-scheme-needs-step-action-bycatch>

Baltic Sea Advisory Council This news doesn't reflect the views of the BSAC or its members

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Here's the report:

http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/msc_bycatch_review_summary_report_final.pdf

Here are the case studies (don't see anything on the Baltic):

https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/msc_report_case_studies_annex_2_final.pdf

An EFARO seminar on ecosystem approach, 15th May 2019, Brussels

EFARO is the Organisation of the Directors of European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Institutes, www.efaro.eu

And what is the Ecosystem Approach? How can we use this? And what does it mean in the context of the Blue Economy and Blue Growth?

After the very successful seminar last year on the CFP and what should the next CFP look like, EFARO would very much like to invite you to join them again, this year on a seminar on the Ecosystem Approach and the Blue Economy. We will have speakers from industry, NGO, science and the policy community. And we very much of course like to discuss with you how you perceive the ecosystem approach.

The seminar will be held on the 15th of May at the Museum of Natural Science in Brussels. Please use this link <https://goo.gl/forms/7tylF8YbEl8M448y1> to register! More details on the programme will follow shortly. If any questions, do not hesitate and get hold of us!

Participation at own cost.

From the Fisheries Secretariat

Reporting on Discardless: The closing science-policy conference

Published on January 31, 2019

Fishsec has been attending the closing science-policy conference of the Discardless project, 30-31 January at DTU Aqua.

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

From the Fisheries Secretariat

The EU Commission issues formal notice to Denmark re fisheries control

Published on January 24, 2019

In its monthly package of infringement decisions, the European Commission today issued a letter of formal notice to Denmark concerning its compliance with several important provisions of the EU fisheries control rules. **Fisheries control: Commission follows up on infringement procedure against DENMARK concerning its compliance with some provisions of the EU control rules**

The Commission decided today to send an additional letter of formal notice to Denmark over its failure to enforce several important provisions of the EU Control Regulation ([Council Regulation \(EC\) No N° 1224/2009](#)). The Regulation establishes a system for the control, inspection and enforcement by national authorities of the EU rules of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Regulation has been in force since 1 January 2010. To date, the Commission considers that Denmark fails to ensure that all fishery products are weighed at landing and that mandatory catch registration documents record the quantities of each species present, including industrial by-catches. The most serious issues concern fisheries for industrial purposes. These deficiencies significantly undermine the accuracy of catch registration documents which are necessary for quota deduction purposes and to prevent overfishing. In addition, Denmark does not ensure that the Commission is notified of the quantities of stocks actually landed with a consequent risk to the sustainability objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. Denmark has now two months to reply to the concerns raised by the Commission; otherwise, the Commission may decide to send a reasoned opinion.

This was reported on in a press release:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-19-462_en.htm

This was part of the Commission's monthly package of infringement decisions, where the European Commission ('Commission') is pursuing legal action against Member States for failing to comply with their

obligations under EU law. The decisions cover various sectors and EU policy areas and aim to ensure the proper application of EU law for the benefit of citizens and businesses. The Commission is also closing 87 cases in which the issues with the Member States concerned have been solved without the Commission needing to pursue the procedure further. For more information on the EU infringement procedure, see the full [MEMO/12/12](#). For more detail on all decisions taken, consult the [infringement decisions' register](#).

It was also reported on in the Danish newspaper Fishing News on 2nd February 2019 article entitled: Industrial fishery has to account for all species – count the number of fish caught as bycatch, demands the EU in a case against Denmark, which does not think it can be done in practice.”

LIFE – Low Impact Fisheries of Europe

Has sent its latest newsletter December – January:

http://lifeplatform.eu/news-from-the-deck-december-january-2019/?fbclid=IwAR26dxldvy8fUYyKduZLh_kUffLLmLHDQXZx2f9GZGJtM8RtxJ85hIAAvnU

Due to temporary internal changes within the organisation, the service of the newsletter will be suspended at least until September 2019.

LIFE news: Polish small-scale fishers are efficient in their protest against the situation in the Baltic Sea, 27th February 2019

http://lifeplatform.eu/poland-ssfs-protest-against-the-situation-in-the-baltic-sea/?fbclid=IwAR02dYzW0axUhMbwNKVL0c7NX4s_sEenZFj2rSkqW7VG42PlsqWV1yh0jsc

We don't understand the photograph and the references on the banners to the BSAC and we've written to ask. Marcin Rucinski of LIFE has written to explain that this protest was an initiative of the fishers, many of them active in the organizations which are LIFE Members in Poland. LIFE had no influence on the 'contents' of the protest; and didn't know in detail what they would put on their banners. The banner with the 4 regional was chosen for the LIFE website article because it was the only one not written in Polish. He is of the view that it correctly encapsulates the fishers' disappointment with the results of management system and, to a lesser extent, its advisory part. Marcin is happy to discuss this with the BSAC.

Coalition Clean Baltic

More garbage caught than cod: NGOs call for emergency measures to protect Eastern Baltic cod. This is a letter sent to Commissioner Vella: 21st February 2019. in the letter, reference is made to the BSAC Theme meeting on cod on 29th January 2019.

<https://ccb.se/2019/02/more-garbage-caught-than-cod-ngos-call-for-emergency-measures-to-protect-eastern-baltic-cod/>

And the same news on OCEANA's website:

https://eu.oceana.org/sites/default/files/letter_about_crisis_for_the_baltic_cod_stock_-_emergency_measures_needed.pdf

As well as to Ocean news 22nd Feb 2019

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2019/02/22/ngos-call-for-six-month-moratorium-on-fishing-baltic-cod/>

From a shipwreck conference on oil spills, the MARE Foundation, 27th February 2019

The Conference took place on the 27th of February in Warsaw, Poland. It was a well attended event, with experts from all Baltic countries. The conference was organised in the framework of the project "*Reduction of the negative impact of oil spills from the Franken shipwreck*" financed by the Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation (baltcf) and carried out by the MARE Foundation in partnership with the Maritime Institute in Gdańsk. The aim of the conference was to draw attention to the problem of fuel still stored on shipwrecks in the Baltic Sea, both based on the example of the T/S Franken shipwreck, as well as other wrecks classified as potentially dangerous to the environment. The conference discussed, among others, the negative effects of oil spills, the scale of the problem in the Baltic and worldwide, the risk assessment methods, the legal

framework in regards to undertaking operations on wrecks, and the available salvage technologies used for cleaning operations. (conference agenda available at: https://fundacjamare.pl/file/repository/27_Feb_International_Baltic_Shipwreck_Conference_AGENDA_final.pdf)

Baltic Sea 2020 news:

Oxygen condition in the Main Basin still poor, 25th February 2019

At the end of January to the beginning of February this year, a research expedition was conducted in the Baltic Sea to investigate phosphorus concentrations and oxygen levels. The trip was related to the Baltic Sea Monitoring Program, which is coordinated by the Baltic Sea States and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, HELCOM, and the monitoring carried out in accordance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The research areas for the trip were the Gulf of Finland, the northern part of the Baltic Sea main basin and the Archipelago Sea. Unfortunately, the oxygen conditions in, for example, the Baltic Sea main basin remains low, which they have been during the past decades. The low oxygen content in the water reduces the bottom's ability to retain phosphorus, which results in high phosphorus levels in the deep waters, which drives the eutrophication. See here:

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/461-the-oxygen-conditions-in-the-baltic-sea-main-basin-is-still-poor>

Baltic Sea 2020: A crucial year for Baltic cod 15th February 2019

Despite all this good will and the efforts of a large number of players, cod numbers are continuing to suffer.

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/459-fisheries-brief-no-11-crucial-year-for-baltic-cod>

Baltic Sea 2020 with the debate article on what's needed for the cod fishery in the Baltic 1st February 2019 (it was referred to in the previous newsletter, but difficult to access this article)

It's still in Swedish, but at least accessible now:

<http://balticsea2020.org/bibliotek/31-fiske/738-drastiska-beslut-kravs-for-fisket-i-ostersjon>

A joint NGO letter sent to FISH ENV dated 21st January 2019

This is a joint letter to Member State experts and sent from Seas At Risk, the Fisheries Secretariat and the Coalition Clean Baltic relating to a joint marine-fisheries workshop which took place in Gothenburg on 23rd and 24th January 2019. They express their serious concerns that little consideration has been given so far to the effects of fisheries management decisions on the achievement of the Marine Strategy Directive's targets and objective. They hope that the joint marine-fisheries process will lead to more decisive actions very soon and that civil society organisations will be fully involved in this process in the future. Find here:

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

DFPO Danish Fishermen PO produces a short monthly newsletter (in Danish, sent by e mail)

The latest one from 6th February 2019 features news on the 2019 quotas, the state of play with the landing obligation, the WWF report which analyses how things are going with implementing the EU fisheries policy and reaching the targets of 2020, the letter from the Commission to Denmark about controlling unsorted landings of for example industrial fish, and Brexit and the risk of a no-deal. If you want to receive this newsletter, contact Thomas Kruse at DFPO tk@dfpo.dk

Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery on the problems of seals 6th February 2019

This time in the North Sea and from the skipper of a 22metre gillnetter fishing in coastal waters from the west coast of Jutland (Hvidesande). Fishing for cod, and as the cod stock in the southern North Sea has been falling, the number of seals has been on the increase. The skipper reports that he's sailing further north to find cod, and further out to sea, but even out there, there are seals. In the view of the skipper in the article, the

seals aren't finding food near the coast, so they're looking for food further out to sea. In his opinion, there's a need to find a balance, so there's room for the seals and the fishermen.

In Danish:

<http://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/saeler-giver-ogsaa-problemer-i-nordsoeen/>

Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations – new fishing areas in Finland 27th February 2019

After the start of the work in 2016 and the adoption of the fishing Act, the creation of fishing areas in Finland been finalised. Malin Lönnroth reporting:

<https://ahven.net/sv/pressmeddelande/2019/02/27/fiskeriomradenas-stammor-fem-fore-fardiga-sist-ute-skargardens-parla-gullkrona/>

European Anglers Alliance has a report on the European Parliament PECH Committee hearing on eel 28th February 2019

After summarizing the discussions at the meeting, the EAA says that it has been calling for urgent measures to protect the European eel stock. In order to improve the eel habitats, all man-made obstacles to eel migration need to be mitigated or removed. The current eel management plans have not delivered to ensure that enough of adult eels leave the EU waters or reach the spawning grounds in the Sargasso Sea. The EAA also calls for more effort devoted to combat illegal fishing and the illegal export of glass eels. Read here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/13184/meps-call-for-better-data-and-more-efforts-from-the-member-states-to-protect-the-european-eel.html>

European Anglers Alliance reports on the adoption by European Parliament of the Western management plan 13th February 2019

The EAA says that Plan contains important and positive provisions concerning recreational fisheries, adding that it's the first time that recreational fisheries is treated almost on an equal footing with commercial fisheries by EU legislation. The plan clearly states that recreational fisheries is exempted from the landing obligation. Western waters plan to enter into force in a few weeks, after adoption by the Council. Read all here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/13149/western-waters-management-plan-gets-final-green-light-by-the-european-parliament.html>

Wiadomości Rybackie: fisheries news in Polish

<https://mir.gdynia.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/WR-styczeń-luty-2019.pdf>

Science news

Climate change is affecting the ability of the sea to absorb Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) 11th February 2019

This is in Danish, but it says that researchers at DTU Aqua Centre for Ocean Life have documented that the important contribution made by plankton in the sea in terms of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere in the temperate regions of the Atlantic is severely reduced. But in the colder parts of the North Atlantic from Iceland to the northern part of the USA the picture is the opposite and plankton are carrying more CO₂ from the surface to the bottom of the sea. Read it in Danish here:

http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2019/02/klimaaendringer-paavirker-havets-evne-til-at-binde-co2?id=a6f50089-4fe7-42db-a90d-355e2df9f988&utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

An analysis explaining possible reasons behind a deteriorating marine environment 7th February 2019

This is a report called "human influences on the marine environment – other pressures than nitrogen and climate change" and is the first part of a project on pressures that DTU Aqua and Aarhus University are carrying out together. See in Danish here:

http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2019/02/analyse-afdaekker-mulige-aarsager-til-forringet-havmiljoe?id=1c6c6739-8418-4244-9d39-a2a9a6d8bc9e&utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

Baltic Sea Advisory Council This news doesn't reflect the views of the BSAC or its members

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SCIENCE 25th March 2019 on Protecting and restoring Europe's waters: An analysis of the future development needs of the Water Framework Directive

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004896971835126X>

EUROPÊCHE news

1. **EU fishing sector calls for experienced candidates to decide on fisheries policies 18/2/19**

Ahead of the European elections in May this year, EUROPÊCHE is reminding all the political groups about how important the fishing sector is in the EU and the benefits it brings for coastal and rural economies. It calls for the political groups to nominate fit-for-purpose candidates when drawing up its lists of candidates.

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/d711bfcd-ebc1-4398-98d6-72a967ddacec>

2. **EUROPÊCHE reported on the agreement on the technical measures regulation 14th February 2019**

Yesterday night, in Strasbourg, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission struck a deal on a new EU law governing the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems, the so-called 'technical measures' Regulation

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/247416/new-fisheries-technical-and-conservation-rules>

Some BBC news 8th February 2019

EU fish discard ban 'cannot be enforced without harming industry'

This is about a report from the UK House of Lords. The inquiry concludes that UK and Scottish governments had not introduced sufficient tools to enforce the ban on discarding fish. More could have been done sooner to change the rules on managing and distributing fishing quotas.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-47171429>

Clean Nordic Oceans news

1. **PLASTIC PACKAGING:** Schoeller Plast A/S has entered new major environmental partnership project with Plastix, Arla, Provice, and Plastic Change. The aim is to develop and test new plastic packaging made of 100% recycled plastic.

Read more at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/old-fishing-trawls-to-be-turned-into-new-plastic-packaging>

2. **LOST LOBSTER POTS IN S. W. SWEDEN** According to experience and recent investigations, there are annually lost between 3-5000 lobster pots along the Swedish West Coast. Sotenäs municipality has an ongoing project to look at this problem. The project leader, Per-Olof Samuelsson writes about the problem and the project.

Read more at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/swedish-project-on-ghost-fishing-well-underway>

3. **New Danish research center will develop solutions to marine plastic pollution**

Based at Aalborg University, Denmark and with funding from the Velux Foundation, the MarinePlastic research center unites Danish researchers from different institutions and academic disciplines to collaborate in the fight against one of the world's greatest environmental challenges.

Read more at:

<http://cnogear.org/news/english/new-danish-research-center-will-develop-solutions-to-the-global-challenges-of-marine-plastic-pollution> (in English)

<http://cnogear.org/news/nordiske-sprak/nyt-dansk-forskningscenter-skal-udvikle-losninger-pa-plastikforureningen-i-havet> (in Danish)



NOTE: Clean Nordic Oceans is always looking after relevant projects, news and alliances working towards recycling and reduction in marine litter and ghost gear from the fishery sector. Do not hesitate to send us tips to news, events and more. Tips can be sent to bard.aarbakke@fiskeridir.no.