

We wrote to members for contributions by Monday, 1st April 2019.
Please let us have any news by 30th April 2019.

It's a very Happy New Year to all BSAC members for the new year of the BSAC 2019-2020!!!!!!
Please check the details of your membership on the BSAC website. There are 41 members 2019-2020.
Please read or re-read the BSAC's personal data policy on the welcome page of the BSAC
Please see the travel claim form 2019-2020 with the amended reimbursement rate (mileage) on the BSAC website, together with the reimbursement guidelines for 2019-2020.
BSAC only accept a form that says 2019-2020, so please send the new one to your accounts department.

BSAC news and meetings

Talking about Natura 2000, protected areas and fisheries management: a very useful first time meeting for the BSAC: the BSAC Ecosystem based management working group on 13th March 2019 to deal with Natura 2000.

There was strong attendance at this meeting, including representatives from Member States (Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden), plus HELCOM and the representatives from DG MARE and DG Environment (by conference link). The main item of the meeting was to update and discuss an overview of the fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas in the Baltic. The BSAC Secretariat had produced a draft overview for the Baltic ahead of the meeting. This meeting gave everyone the chance to have a dialogue between stakeholders, Member States and Commission on conservation measures in protected areas. There were presentations by the Member States on the status of Natura 2000 areas and how far they have got with implementing fisheries management measures. HELCOM gave a presentation of its work on this, covered by a HELCOM working group on state and conservation. There were frank and open discussions on the challenges, the processes and the work ahead. It was agreed that it is important to identify the gaps in the knowledge and data and to learn about best practices. The meeting regretted that the Commission had not appeared in person and had not been able to participate in the entire meeting. The meeting applauded the good dialogue between stakeholders and the Member States on conservation measures in protected areas and agreed to continue it in the future. The meeting was able to define some basic principles for work concerning fisheries management measures in protected areas. The report isn't finalised yet, but it includes at the end some of these proposed basic principles. We look forward to sharing the report with you. Meanwhile, please find all the interesting and informative presentations given by Member States and HELCOM at the meeting on the BSAC website:

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

The BSAC has just held a Focus Group to look at the BSAC statutes 28th March 2019:

The BSAC chair led this Focus Group which has been tasked by the ExCom to run through the BSAC statutes and find out where there's a need for amendments/revision/updates etc. to produce Rules of Procedure. The Secretariat is now preparing a draft, on the basis of the discussions held. A final draft will be ready in good time to send to the General Assembly to consider and comment on ahead of the General Assembly meeting on 15th May 2019.

The BSAC is looking ahead

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

Invitations and agendas have been sent to members and to a wider audience. Sign up!!!

Please check the BSAC website and note the deadline for registering of 30th April 2019:

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

The WG Joint WG June 11th -12th 2019, Copenhagen

Another meeting that's been announced and invitations sent. The ICES representative (ACOM Vice chair Colm Lordan) has confirmed that he will be taking part and presenting the ICES advice for the Baltic. We hope very much that DG Mare will be taking part.

Deadline for registering is Tuesday 28th May 2019. Sign up!!!! See here:

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

The BSAC is planning for a special meeting on the way forward for the next Common Fisheries Policy: 3rd September 2019, Helsinki

The BSAC has a clear target in its work programme for 2019-2020 to have a discussion on the future Common Fisheries Policy. This will start already now, so that the BSAC can produce a communication for the Commission. The key question is: what should the future CFP contain?

The BSAC aims to hold this meeting in Helsinki, and HELCOM has offered the BSAC their meeting room – with room for up to 50 people!

Note the date and start thinking about what the future should bring for the CFP. The BSAC needs a moderator for this meeting.

BSAC output recommendations from the BSAC and replies

The BSAC has been replying to DG Mare on the situation for eastern Baltic Cod

On 27th February 2019, the BSAC received a letter from Helene Clark, Director, Directorate C Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions, DG MARE concerning the Eastern Baltic cod. She referred to the BSAC theme meeting on 29th January 2019 when the eastern Baltic cod was dealt with in detail. Experts had taken part to explain what is happening to the eastern cod stock and what factors are influencing it. The factors are multiple.

Link to that meeting and the presentations made 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 BSAC chair and vice chair sent a reply to Mme. Clarke, stating:

“The BSAC is fully committed to facilitating dialogue, and to developing an advice that reflects the views of all the members. At the next available opportunity, we will meet to discuss this, and we look forward to communicating this at the earliest opportunity..... In fact, on Tuesday 14th May 2019, the BSAC will be holding its next Executive Committee meeting. In continuation of the theme meeting that we held in January, we will resume our focus on the Baltic cod – both eastern and western. We hope very much that representatives of the Commission will be able to take part and we look forward to sending you the draft agenda as soon as possible.”

Please find both letters on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/Letter-from-DG-Mare-regarding-the-situation-of-eas>

News from BSAC member organisations/members

BSAC reporting on the focus on seals - Gothenburg 19th to 20th March 2019

BALTFISH held a Symposium on seals and invited the BSAC to make a presentation AND gave seats to three BSAC members. Please see here the power point presentation that the chair of the ecosystem based working group Nils Höglund gave to the meeting - not an easy task to present the differing viewpoints and positions amongst the BSAC. But he did a great job. His presentation at the Symposium is here:

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

And please read the report that the BSAC members have sent from the meeting:

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

Focus on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027 and the technical measures – meet the rapporteur for both dossiers MEP Gabriel Mato in Gdynia 29th March 2019

MEP Jarosław Wałęsa sent an invitation to the BSAC (and other stakeholders in Poland) to meet the Member of the European Parliament, Gabriel Mato, rapporteur and chief negotiator of the two important reports: 1. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the years 2021-2027; 2. Report on the conservation of fish stocks and the protection of marine ecosystems by technical means. This meeting was on Friday, March 29th at the Maritime Fisheries Institute - National Research Institute in Gdynia.

Krzysztof Stanuch, National Chamber of Fish Producers took part on behalf of the BSAC. He informed that there's a limit to how much dialogue is possible at such a short meeting. He managed to take the floor and make an intervention on behalf of the BSAC and to highlight the recommendations on technical measures and the draft regulation that the BSAC had sent in 2015 and 2017. His concern was to know: did the European Parliament PECH Committee take note of these recommendations? He discussed bilaterally with MEP Jaroslaw Walesa how the BSAC and the PECH Committee can strengthen links. The BSAC recommendations were left on the table. This newsletter is updated to include a report from Krzysztof:

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

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

Replying to the BSAC on TACs and quotas

BALTFISH and Fisheries Director Sara Colliander sent a reply to a letter sent by the BSAC last year regarding October Council Decision on TAC and quotas. See here:

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

From the BALTFISH Symposium on seals (mentioned above) There will be an official report from the meeting

And BTW: HELCOM is arranging a meeting on seal fisheries interactions on 27th June 2019, which will hopefully function as a follow up on the topics discussed at this meeting.

BALTFISH Workshop on eels 7th-8th May 2019 Gothenburg

We're waiting for invitation from BALTFISH.

The next BALTFISH Forum under Sweden will be on 3rd June 2019 in Stockholm. ICES will take part and present its scientific advice for the Baltic Sea 2020. Invitation and draft agenda to follow at a later stage.

Updated work programme from BALTFISH (dated March) for the Swedish BALTFISH Presidency.

Here:

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

Finland BALTFISH Forum 4th September 2019, Helsinki (tbc)

Finland have written to inform that their BALTFISH autumn meeting is planned 4th and 5th September 2019 in Helsinki: tbc

Council news and meetings

Commission news and meetings

EUMOFA Monthly Highlights; latest No. 2/2019 has now been published.

<https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/142325/MH+2+2019+EN.pdf>

Did you catch the EU High-level Conference on support for EU Ocean Policy? 19th March 2019

More than 1000 people gathered in Brussels for this year's largest EU event on oceans. Organised by MEP Gesine Meissner and European Commissioner Karmenu Vella, the event hosted the continent's most

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influential advocates for healthy, safe and sustainable oceans. And with a large delegation of students and youth organisations in the room, the conference was more than an interesting recap of today's status quo. It was a plea for even more ambition, from policy makers, companies and civil society, to safeguard the most precious organism of our planet: our ocean.

Commissioner Vella set the tone of the conference: "the ocean is the genesis of life, but now it's on the front-line in the fight for survival. There is only one possible response, and that response is collective." Here's a report from DG Mare:

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/high-level-conference---more-1000-people-gather-ep-support-strong-eu-ocean-policy_en

And here's the event page where you can listen to the five-hour marathon event with over 40 speakers. It includes a special session on fisheries, chaired by MEP Gabriel Mato:

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

Welcome to 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region 2019! 12th-13th June 2019

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will meet on June 12-13, 2019 in the Hanseatic and symbolic city of Gdańsk to discuss topics very much related to the future of the Baltic Sea Region. These are demographic changes along with the circular and sharing economy. See the conference programme: <https://strategyforum2019.eu/conference-programme>

There are at least three reasons to come and participate in the Gdańsk Forum. Firstly, you should come to explore a strong linkage between the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region and growing challenges such as depopulation, ageing, migrations, new production and consumption models, but also new social, cultural, mobility and labour market patterns, which influence our everyday behaviours and attitudes. Secondly, for the first time the Forum is developed and organised mainly by the region hosting the event. It is also the first time when a Norwegian partner is a co-organiser of the Forum. Thirdly, it is going to be the 10th jubilee Forum that we should use to conclude main achievements of the Strategy, but also to pave the way for smarter, more efficient and better coordinated actions aiming at prosperous future for the Baltic Sea Region. Main site here:

<https://strategyforum2019.eu/10th-annual-forum-of-the-eusbsr>

European Parliament news and meetings

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund vote in the EP 7th March 2019

At its extraordinary meeting on 7 March 2019, the Committee on Fisheries voted on the adoption of a key legislative file for the shaping of the new EMFF programme, with over 1000 amendments (report on the "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund" 2018/0210(COD)). Having concluded the difficult trilogue negotiations lasting for more than a year, the Committee also voted on the provisional agreement on the complex "Technical Measures" file.

The Next Fisheries Committee meetings:

The PECH Committee meeting scheduled on Monday 8 April 2019 is cancelled.

EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA is holding a Seminar on future challenges for control 9th April 2019 Vigo

The EFCA Administrative Board meeting 10th April 2019 Vigo

The BSAC vice chair is deputising at the Administrative Board meeting (BSAC representing all the ACs this year). Staffan Larsson will represent the BSAC at the seminar. See the agendas for these meetings here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Administrative-Board-meeting>

News from other ACs

North Sea Advisory Council NSAC

Announcement 4th March 2019: The NSAC appointed Tamara Talevska as Executive Secretary. Tamara began on 4th March 2019 and will be based in new offices in Zoetermeer.

The Markets Advisory Council MAC

After having worked for the MAC from its very beginning, Executive Secretary Sandra Sanmartin will be leaving her job on 30th April 2019. The deadline for applying for the job was on 25th March 2019.

Other meetings and news of activities

Final conference of the Interreg project CATCH Coastal Angling Tourism 5th and 6th April 2019

Presented as a development chance for the South Baltic Region, to be held in Dźwirzyno, Poland on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th April 2019.

Angling experts and partners from **Denmark, Poland, Lithuania** and **Germany** will present a rich programme of current trends, offers, local initiatives and marketing opportunities for sustainable coastal angling in the **South Baltic Region**. Best practices and guidelines for communities to raise the potential of regional coastal angling tourism will be discussed. It's probably too late to register now, but at least you know it's happening: <http://catch-southbaltic.eu/april-conference-english/>

3rd Fish for waste conference 10th to 11th April 2019 Rejkjavik

This conference will provide crucial insight for senior managers from the fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors, as well as those in the associated supply chain, looking to maximise their return on investment from otherwise discarded parts of the catch.

Get the programme here: <https://www.icefishconference.com/the-conference/conference-programme>

ICES and science

ICES workshop on ecosystem-based approach in the Baltic 20th to 23rd May 2019

Please see the terms of reference for this workshop here:

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

The BSAC has confirmed interest in taking part in this workshop as invited guests to the special afternoon meeting on 20th May 2019. ICES has written with a special invitation to the BSAC to solicit its views and ideas about what are the main ecological and fisheries issues in the Baltic that are of concern for the BSAC. ICES aims to discuss this in an open forum, and with a full exchange of views. The issues raised would then be investigated by the workshop over the following days to identify where advice and guidance could be provided, or where it was possible and appropriate, to carry out further research. The intention is to have the priorities for work set by the stakeholders rather than the scientists, so the participation by the BSAC would be greatly appreciated and crucial to the success of the workshop. BSAC Ex Com members have been informed and invited to contact the Secretariat.

DTU Aqua on cameras and discard: using cameras and DNA tests to control discarded fish

18.3.19

With the new EU rules on the landing obligation, there's a need to develop new control methods such as cameras and DNA tests. This report links in to the recently ended DiscardLess project. A researcher at DTU Aqua Kristian Schreiber Plet-Hansen has been looking into the use of cameras as a way of controlling discarding. Results from trials where fishermen took part on a voluntary basis showed that cameras on board can have an effect. For example, with cod, which fishermen previously had to throw overboard if they'd used up their quota. For some fishermen the effect of having cameras onboard could be seen in the size of the cod caught - all of a sudden there were small cod in the net – this gives some indication of what's going on.

And what can these unwanted catches be used for? The DiscardLess project has developed a product catalogue with a series of products which can make use of discarded fish and shellfish, such as use in biogas, compost, gelatin and fishmeal/oil. But all the discarded fish is stored together in tanks or as frozen blocks, so it's hard to know what's what. This is where DNA analysis is being used to tell one species from another, for example sea cat from cod species. The DNA tests are being further developed, but it will take along time before they have developed a quick test to make it easy to determine species and biomass at the quayside. But it's work in progress and has great potential, thanks to the DiscardLess project. This is in Danish:

http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2019/03/kameraer-og-dna-tests-til-kontrol-af-discard-fisk?id=d4734ebd-1c31-4e0a-8193-ebd098c54330&utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

Ecological-economic sustainability of the Baltic cod fisheries under ocean warming and acidification.

By Rudi Voss et al, dated 1st March 2019

The abstract says:

Human-induced climate change such as ocean warming and acidification, threatens marine ecosystems and associated fisheries. In the Western Baltic cod stock socio-ecological links are particularly important, with many relying on cod for their livelihoods. A series of recent experiments revealed that cod populations are negatively affected by climate change, but an ecological-economic assessment of the combined effects, and advice on optimal adaptive management are still missing. For Western Baltic cod, the increase in larval mortality due to ocean acidification has experimentally been quantified. Time-series analysis allows calculating the temperature effect on recruitment. Here, we include both processes in a stock-recruitment relationship, which is part of an ecological-economic optimization model. The goal was to quantify the effects of climate change on the triple bottom line (ecological, economic, social) of the Western Baltic cod fishery. Ocean warming has an overall negative effect on cod recruitment in the Baltic. Optimal management would react by lowering fishing mortality with increasing temperature, to create a buffer against climate change impacts. The negative effects cannot be fully compensated, but even at 3 °C warming above the 2014 level, a reduced but viable fishery would be possible. However, when accounting for combined effects of ocean warming and acidification, even optimal fisheries management cannot adapt to changes beyond a warming of +1.5° above the current level. Our results highlight the need for multi-factorial climate change research, in order to provide the best available, most realistic, and precautionary advice for conservation of exploited species as well as their connected socio-economic systems.

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They made the full text free on this website:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30849595?dopt=Abstract&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

(also Sally has saved)

Is it the end of cod? Danmarks Radio 6th March 2019

Is it the end of Danish cod? The world's fish stocks are under pressure from increasing temperatures and marine heat waves. Maybe in Denmark we're going to have to wave goodbye to cod, say researchers. It's in Danish:

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/viden/klima/slut-med-danske-torsk-fisk-svoemmer-i-daarligt-nyt>

To Baltic Sea experts in Environmental management and Research, FUMARI survey

FUMARI is an **EU BONUS** project with partners from several Baltic countries and coordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE. [Find more information here](#). The aim of BONUS FUMARI is to propose improvements in the monitoring system that may support a sustainable management of the Baltic Sea marine environment as a whole. With this **survey** we would like to collate input from you as stakeholder – please provide us with your perspectives:

[Link - BONUS FUMARI](#)

Reply before 19th of April.

About the stakeholder survey

Stakeholder perspectives and support are vital for the gap analysis of the existing monitoring and data management in the Baltic Sea. Your view is also important for the possibility to identify novel monitoring methods that may improve and support the existing monitoring being cost effective and scientifically validated alternative approaches. With this survey we would like to collate input from you as a key stakeholder. We are interested in all perspectives, irrespectively of whether you are an expert in a certain field of monitoring or not. The survey is anonymous but we do encourage you to provide us with your contact information separately via email. In this we can contact you in case of questions and invite you to our dissemination activities. In our reports, we can also acknowledge the institutions which contributed to the survey. Please contact us in any case if you have questions or are interested in further discussions.



BONUS FUMARI receives funds from BONUS (art. 185), which is jointly funded by the EU, the Academy of Finland and the Swedish Research Council Formas.

HELCOM

In March, HELCOM started to produce a newsletter It featured:

It informed on its 20th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 20-2019), Berlin, Germany, 15-17 May 2019

The Meeting will consider future coordination on the aspects of the revised Commission Decision on Good Environmental Status which require regional cooperation, initiate scoping for HOLAS III, including indicator work, progress on the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

At the **40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission** (HELCOM 40-2019) that was held in Helsinki, Finland, from 6 to 7 March 2019, the HELCOM members addressed key orientations for the future, and also adopted several recommendations aimed at strengthening the environmental protection of the Baltic Sea.

The HELCOM countries adopted the **HELCOM Recommendation on Conservation and Protection of Marine and Coastal Biotopes, Habitats and Biotope Complexes**. This document contains specific steps to protect and conserve all marine and coastal biotopes, especially the endangered and vulnerable ones indicated on the **HELCOM Red List**.

The **update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)** has taken another concrete step with the launch, in February, of two central initiatives, namely the ACTION project and the HELCOM Platform on Sufficiency of Measures (HELCOM SOM Platform).

Working closely together and drawing on interdisciplinary expertise from across the Baltic Sea region, both initiatives will be analysing if the measures that are currently in place are sufficient to achieve good environmental status for the Baltic Sea.

Fanplastic-sea: A new research project will focus on decreasing and removing microplastics in the Baltic Sea. The project will increase knowledge and understanding about dispersal pathways and sources through measurements in different flows in society, as well as cost-effective methods to reduce microplastics.

Coastal fish assessments will continue to be carried out in the Baltic Sea with renewed commitment from the HELCOM countries, as shown during the first meeting of the **FISH-PRO III project** that was held in Helsinki from 12 to 14 February 2019.

The focus of the meeting was to finalize the revised monitoring guideline for coastal fish in HELCOM, and to follow up on the development work of the indicators used for the assessments of coastal fish.

"The Helsinki meeting took us a step further in the development of additional indicators for coastal fish," said Jens Olsson, project manager of FISH-PRO III and chair of the meeting.

The current **HELCOM indicators** on coastal fish notably evaluate the abundance of typical species of fish, such as perch and flounder, in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea. They also evaluate the status of key functional groups such as piscivores, cyprinids and mesopredators.

Other information/reading

German Cutter-and Coastal-Fishermen's Association and the Union of German Cutter Fishery on Natura 2000 and fisheries management measures

In the latest edition of their bimonthly magazine Fischerblatt (2019-02), there's an article on the process started by Germany to introduce fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas in the Baltic in the German EEZ. The first hearing was held in Germany in February 2019 and the German fishing sector has been informed. The article goes through the areas and what the proposed measures are and what the reaction is from the fisheries sector. Reactions are not positive. It's in German. The BSAC Secretariat has a copy.

Polish fishermen march on Warsaw to express their concerns about the situation in the Baltic 27th February 2019

In the previous newsletter we included a report of a protest by Polish fisherman in Gdynia. This time they took their worries and concerns to Warsaw and they were met by the fisheries minister Marek Grobarczyk. According to this report, the fishermen face an existential threat – not only in Poland, but in the entire central Baltic. The threat comes from the severe lack of cod, as well as increasing numbers of seals. The Polish fishermen also highlight their concerns about pelagic fishing by the large pelagic trawlers.

According to the fishermen, the 6 nautical mile limit for these vessels is not enough and should be extended to 12 nm. Polish fishermen are also concerned about the definition of small scale fisheries in connection with the next EMFF programme for 2021-2027: some are talking about extending the definition to vessels up to 24 metres.

The minister and the fishermen agreed to meet to work together on a rescue programme for the Polish small scale fishermen. This article is in German on the website of the Association of Fisheries Protection:

<http://www.fischereischutzverband.de/media/pdf/a2019-01.pdf>

http://www.deutscher-fischerei-verband.de/downloads/Resolution_Luebeck_2018.pdf

Europêche: European Parliament delivers a better suited EU fisheries fund to meet the needs of the sector 8th March 2019

The Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament has voted yesterday on the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) that will cover the budgetary period 2021-2027. Europêche appreciates the strong stand of the Parliament against the 5% budgetary cut proposed by the European Commission to compensate for the upcoming Brexit gap in the EU budget. The Parliament has called instead for a 10% budget increase (total envelope of €7.74 billion in current prices) compared to the Commission's proposal to face the many upcoming challenges for the sector. Furthermore, Europêche welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to deliver their position on the new fund before the end of the current legislative term to avoid any delays as well as their focus on the socio-economic sustainability of the fishing fleet.

Daniel Voces, Managing Director of Europêche, declared: *"Under the leadership of the rapporteur MEP Gabriel Mato, the European Parliament has taken a tremendous step forward in developing a coherent and practical fund to support innovation, modernisation of the fishing fleet, and the improvement of working and living conditions of fishers. We hope that the Parliament's plenary vote in April will endorse the text to facilitate a smooth transition to the next budgetary period starting on 1st January 2021."* See here:

<http://europêche.chil.me/post/249388/european-parliament-delivers-a-better-suited-eu-fisheries-fund-to-meet-the-needs>

The Eurofish magazine - two articles on the Polish fisheries and processing sector

Check out the EUROFISH magazine from February for two interesting articles on Polish companies pp 56-57 Gadus restructures its processing operations - and interview with the owner Dawid Sztormonsky pp 58-59 Lack of cod threatens processing industry - this is the Association of Fishermen of Sea PO and interview with Jacek Wittbrodt

Check out the link:

<http://www.eurofishmagazine.com/magazine-issues/item/553-eurofish-magazine-issue-1-2019-january-february>

And from the EUROFISH 18th Governing Council of 31st January - 1st February 2019

Their report is final and available here:

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

ASCOBANS – focus on harbour porpoises

The Finnish Ministry of the Environment and Turku University of Applied Sciences hosted the 15th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group in Turku, Finland on 18th – 20th March 2019. The meeting reviewed progress under the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) and the ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat (WBBK Plan); learned about complementary initiatives; and aimed to move implementation forward.

All documents at: <https://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/15th-meeting-jastarnia-group>

The Fisheries Secretariat

Swedish food industry together with WWF call for an end to illegal discarding, Published on 15th March, 2019

In a letter to the Swedish government representatives from several of the largest national food industry companies together with The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have requested that “the government must urgently take action [to end illegal discarding] and introduce CCTV/camera surveillance on board fishing vessels”.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2019/03/15/swedish-food-industry-together-with-wwf-call-for-an-end-to-illegal-discarding/>

The Fisheries Secretariat

NGOs call on Commission to meet 2020 deadline and end overfishing 28th March 2019

This is referring to the Commission Communication on the state of play of the Common Fisheries Policy and Commission proposals on fishing opportunities for 2020, with a letter 22nd March 2019 to the Commission calling on them to make sure that their proposals for TACs in 2020 do not exceed the scientific advice:

<https://www.fishsec.org/2019/03/28/ngos-call-on-commission-to-meet-2020-deadline-and-end-overfishing/>

WWF: On the European Parliament and the EMFF: reintroduces subsidies to grow EU fishing fleet in overfished waters Brussels, 7 March 2019

Quote: “The Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament took an appalling step backwards in a highly controversial vote on the post-2020 funding strategy for the maritime and fisheries sector (EMFF). The Committee’s proposal reintroduces subsidies to purchase new fishing vessels as well as to modernise them, thereby increasing the EU’s fishing capacity”.

Coalition Clean Baltic

On 6-7 March high-level representatives met at the 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission.

On this occasion, CCB shared the concerns of civil society organizations and almost a million individual members of CCB’s network around the Baltic Sea.

“Our concerns are connected with continuous and increasing **violations of the fundamental principles and provisions of the Helsinki Convention**: Precautionary principle and science-based management;

Transparency, trust and sharing information to minimize transboundary impacts;

Joint measures for reaching joint goals, instead of prioritising actions of “overriding national interest”.

Considering recent and past examples of such violations (e.g. logging at the Vistula spit or supporting TAC for the Eastern Baltic cod), HELCOM promises – in terms of truly applying the ecosystem approach and ecosystem-based management to all Baltic Sea Region human activities – have to be proved by **real actions**. CCB made it clear one year ago in our Civil Society Declaration on Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea that BSR residents are getting frustrated and disappointed by countries inaction”.

<https://ccb.se/2019/03/real-actions-not-realistic-wishes-a-recipe-for-an-updated-baltic-sea-action-plan/>

CCB feature a job advert:

The Danish Society for Nature Conservation want to employ a skilled senior policy officer experienced in international marine policy and management

See here, and deadline 12th April 2019:

<https://ccb.se/2019/03/vacancy-marine-senior-policy-officer-at-the-danish-society-for-nature-conservation/>

Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation and their newsletter Pelagic Perspective

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

DPPO has started to produce a newsletter with focus on issues of concern to their sector and activities. The first one, recently issued (18th March 2019), focused on concerns about Brexit, and the importance of industrial fish (sprat, sandeel, Norway pout) for human nutrition. It's in Danish, but you can sign up for the newsletter here:

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

Danish Fishermen Producers Organisation on seals: the very existence of the coastal fishery is threatened by seals

The Danish newspaper "Fishing News" on 23rd March 2019 - (see pages 14 to 16). This article was produced after the BALTFISH Symposium on seals 19th-20th March 2019 and it refers back to that, as well as BALTFISH.

It's all in Danish. The headline further on is: "We need action, not more reports" – with the article calling for the need for regulation, so there's room for both seal and fishermen. There's a map of Denmark with small soundbites from different harbours around the coast. Klintholm harbour (the one nearest the Baltic on the map) says "There's nothing to indicate that things have got better for the fishermen. Over recent years the number of seals has not decreased. They damage the nets and they eat the fish."

Contact editor rd@dkfisk.dk

LIFE Low Impact Fishers on Europe

15th March 2019

<http://lifeplatform.eu/final-call-for-eastern-baltic-cod/?fbclid=IwAR11vJVIFS3F6ikIKaJynK5BExHraiUH2vquspRu7drPJAhCH9IbB0iS-Q4>

Sustaining the Eastern Baltic cod stock has been priority a for LIFE, given the historical importance of this stock as the very basis for livelihoods of many of our Members in the Baltic Sea...

Well, that is now history as far as the fishers' livelihoods are concerned!

LIFE's call for action by the decision-makers in the last Baltic fisheries Council in October 2018, based on thorough analysis of different drivers of the stock situation, largely went unheeded. Things have gone from bad to worse since that time. Already last November, a drastic deterioration in the situation of the stock was visible through increasingly empty cod nets of many fishers. This was confirmed by the annual series of research cruises organized by the national scientific institutes.

Baltic 2020 supports a project to better understand the critical situation of Baltic cod, 13th March 2019

Since it was founded, BalticSea2020 has focused on projects that aim to strengthen predatory fish stocks in the Baltic Sea. The cod is a top predator and plays an important part in the Baltic Sea ecosystem. However, since the 1990s cod from stocks in the eastern Baltic Sea have gradually been getting smaller and thinner.

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/464-balticsea2020-supports-yet-another-scientific-project-to-better-understand-the-critical-situation-of-baltic-cod>

Baltic Sea 2020: On February 21, several prominent international professors participated in the full-day symposium **The Expansion of Low Oxygen Zones in the Global Ocean and Coastal Waters** in Stockholm. The symposium addressed the impact of changes in productivity, biodiversity, and biogeochemical cycles with declining oxygen in the global ocean and coastal waters.

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/463-did-you-miss-the-seminary-the-expansion-of-low-oxygen-zones-in-the-global-ocean-and-coastal-waters>

Baltic Sea 2020 Produces a fisheries brief - this is number 12 : on Baltic cod

28th March 2019

The catastrophic development for the Baltic cod continues without any noticeable sign that politicians or authorities are reacting to it. It gives an account of the situation concerning cod, including references to the ICES advice. Readers of this fisheries brief are asking what they can do to help. The page gives a couple of tips:

Contact politicians

At the upcoming EP elections, ask the candidates what they intend to do

Write to the government
Contact other environmental organisations.
It's in Danish here:

<http://balticsea2020.org/pressrum/750-fiskebrief-12-fortsatt-torskfiske-ar-skadligt>

BONUS projects:

New BONUS GOHERR publication: Socio-cultural values as a dimension of fisheries governance: the cases of Baltic salmon and herring

The paper demonstrates the multivalued nature of fish resources and suggests systematic inclusion of values in fisheries governance, to enhance the legitimacy of decisions.

https://www.bonusprojects.org/bonusprojects/news/new_bonus_goherr_publication_socio-cultural_values_as_a_dimension_of_fisheries_governance_the_cases_of_baltic_salmon_and_herring

European Anglers Alliance on the importance of anglers

26th March 2019

They say that:

“For too long, the considerable importance and impacts of recreational fisheries have been ignored,” states a team of fisheries scientists, economists, sociologists and ecologists in an opinion paper published earlier this month. The paper includes a five steps policy reform to address the shortcomings. See the paper here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/13248/recreational-fisheries-ignored-for-too-long-scientists-say.html>

There's a lot less falsely labelled fish if it has a Marine Stewardship Council label

19.3.19 FødevarerWatch

It says that 30 pct. of all fish sold world-wide is sold as another species (that's what a big survey found out in 2015). But a new study shows that if fish has an MSC label, the cheating is much less frequent. It's a study that's been financed by the MSC. It showed that less than 1% of the MSC fish products are wrongly labelled. MSC sees this as confirmation that not only is the fish caught sustainably, the customer can also trust the MSC label. And that they get what they pay for

Sorry, it's in Danish

https://fodevarewatch.dk/Landbrug_Fiskeri/article11261786.ece

More MSC

On 6th December MSC held a seminar on Interactions between the EU's landing obligation and the MSC programme

At this seminar they looked at the following questions:

How will MSC continue to provide assurance on sustainability, traceability and legal compliance once the LO is fully implemented in January 2019?

What does the LO mean for MSC certified fisheries' conformity with the current MSC Fisheries Standard and how can the MSC ensure continuation of best practice in EU fisheries?

Does the current MSC Fisheries Standard adequately support Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) assessments against the LO and are there any adaptations/additional evidence required to incorporate the requirements of the LO into MSC assessments?

How can the MSC Fisheries Standard contribute to the CFP objective of gradually eliminating discards to achieve the successful implementation of the LO?

Check it out here:

<https://www.msc.org/seminar-eu-landing-obligation>

Marine litter and health and safety	
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EMODnet: New maps show the extent of marine litter in European seas

http://www.emodnet.eu/new-maps-show-extent-marine-litter-european-seas?fbclid=IwAR2PseM_ekXWMCT63xMK2-atv1tmcc_uZk5xNOt8apQW8IRSHsE-boV2sZA

Maps:

http://ec.oceanbrowser.net/emodnet/?fbclid=IwAR241Iya9E8ZSDdT67S_EfCWZhNBidoLvsGH5abyRdxVkk4y50AINF4tB9k

Increasing concentrations of plastic in our environment are a growing threat to ecosystems and human health. Plastic has been detected in nearly all marine life – from whales to molluscs. In order to fight this threat, there have been calls in international fora such as G7, G20 and the United Nations to bring the many measurements and observations together to create a complete picture. Europe is now leading the way. Authorities and the wider society now have a new tool to help track, map and identify where litter ends up in our seas and oceans and check how it's affecting ocean health.

The production of the maps is based on data from hundreds of data providers and monitoring efforts to gather marine litter information scattered over Europe. The maps show, among others, the spatial and temporal distribution of beach and seafloor litter based on official monitoring surveys and wider sampling efforts across European countries. The types of litter are also identified, from plastics to glass, wood and metal, and from fishing related items to land-based products, such as cigarettes.

Hundreds of EU staff kick off beach clean season, 25th March 2019 (EU Maritime & Fish)

On 24 March, hundreds of EU staff in Belgium have spent their lazy Sunday on the beach. "What's new?" you might wonder. Well, they didn't come for sunbathing, even if the weather was good for it. Nor for taking an early dip into the sea – though swimming in ice cold water is something of a national tradition here ("ijsberen", or acting like an ice bear). Equipped with gloves, bags, litter picking sticks and a host of 12-starred paraphernalia, officials from the Commission and other institutions came to clean the beach, ahead of the tourist season.

Clean Nordic Oceans network on projects on microplastics

Microplastics in the oceans is an increasing problem. It has many sources and enters the oceans through a broad range of vectors.

To reduce the amount of micro plastics in the oceans, we need to know the source and the pathways. JPI Oceans have since 2015 worked to increase the understanding of microplastics in the oceans.

The first 4 projects have been finalised and JPI Oceans have launched a second call of 10,5 million euro for transnational research project on microplastics.

Read more at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/jpi-oceans-work-to-understand-microplastics-in-the-oceans>
[CNOgear.org](http://cnogear.org).

Globefish has created a new section devoted to social responsibility

In recent years, Social Responsibility has become a major concern also in the fisheries sector due to incidents of labour right violations and human rights abuses found at different stages of the fisheries value chain. As a result, numerous international and national initiatives are now calling for increased social responsibility and improvements in social and labour conditions in the sector. This platform will be available from April to June 2019

http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/social-responsibility/en/?utm_source=GLOBEFISH+Newsletter&utm_campaign=1319e61674-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_11_29_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_30087880c0-1319e61674-587749981

Training and Training and certification for fishermen: Commission adopts a report calling on EU Member States to ratify STCW-F Convention as soon as possible 28th March 2019

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/training-and-certification-fishermen-commission-adopts-report-calling-eu-member-states-ratify_en