

We wrote to members for contributions before end of May 2021. We heard from one of you.

So please let us have any news before end of June 2021 if you want it to be included.

Just got this (1.6.21): The impact of cormorants and seals on Baltic fisheries: Baltic Sea Fisheries Transnational Cooperation Virtual Seminar 26<sup>th</sup> May – read the Press release and recommendations on the website:

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

## BSAC news and meetings

### **The BSAC closed its year – but Executive Committee and General Assembly Committee meetings 2021 in written procedure with the documents**

Due to COVID, all the documents to close one year and start the new were dealt with again by written procedure.

As for the membership of the ExCom and the office bearers General Assembly Honorary Chair and Executive Committee Chair, it is status quo until the planned meetings on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021: the Honorary Chair and the ExCom Chair have confirmed willingness to extend their term beyond the customary three years, as has the Executive Committee. There is currently no Vice Chair.

The Honorary Chair will not stand for re-election. So we're on the lookout for a new Honorary Chair.

We cross our fingers for a physical meeting in Copenhagen.

You can find the BSAC Annual Report for 2020-2021 here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC/About-the-BSAC/BSACAnnualReport2020\\_2021FINAL-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC/About-the-BSAC/BSACAnnualReport2020_2021FINAL-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **The BSAC is doing its own work on CFP reform – with a drafting meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**The White Paper drafting exercise on the CFP.** The meeting discussed how best to produce an output that can be used by those receiving it, taking note of the Commission's work relating to CFP review. The participants discussed what could be proposed by the BSAC under current regulations and what would require regulatory changes. It was noted that whatever the Commission intends does not prevent the BSAC from stating what is needed and required. It agreed on a short and succinct document, supported by an explanatory annex. The work continued at a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. We're now waiting for feedback from those who took part and got tasks for drafting more good stuff.

### **The BSAC had an external evaluation last year – follow up**

A Focus Group led by the BSC ExCom Chair met to work on this on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. One proposal from this work was to draft a Code of Conduct, which could help to transparency of the BSAC and serve as a guidance to new members, including observers. There's one already drafted, to be finalised and shared with the ExCom.

### **There was a very, very special Executive Committee meeting with EFCA + ICES Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

There was a record high attendance (over 60 people) with EFCA and ICES taking part at this meeting – including EFCA Executive Director Pascal Savouret and ICES ACOM Chair Mark Dickey-Collas.

The morning session was with EFCA, and the afternoon session was with ICES.

The BSAC members and observers sent questions for the meeting. Not everything could be covered, but a great deal was. The questions put to EFCA and ICES from BSAC members are here:

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

The report is almost round the corner.

The BSAC Secretariat will do its best to follow up on issues not dealt with or finalised at the meeting.

### **Eyes down and sign up: BSAC Joint Working Group to hear the ICES Advice for the Baltic fisheries for 2021 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Messages of doom and gloom are already being posted and sent across the media about the advice that's come out of ICES.

ICES ACOM Vice-Chair Colm Lordan has accepted the invitation to take part at this annual BSAC meeting to present, explain and give the full story on the ICES advice for the Baltic fisheries. The ICES advice was released on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 [see under ICES].

The deadline to sign up Tuesday 1st June 2021.

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group-\(3\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group-(3))

### **Executive Committee and General Assembly on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

Please note the date. There will be all the elections. Meeting rooms at the Danish Food and Agriculture Council are booked! Cross fingers this will be a REAL meeting:

[BSAC - BSAC General Assembly and Executive Committee](#)

## **What BSAC member organisations have been reporting on in May**

### **It's goodbye Alex – hello Jennie**

#### **Change at the EU Fish Processors and Traders Association - Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish**

Welcome to **Jennie Montell, A. Espersen A/S** and who is new representative on the ExCom for AIPCE-CEP. She replaces Alex Olsen who retired (but promises to come and say farewell when we hold September General Assembly and ExCom in Copenhagen).

### **Coalition Clean Baltic – Bycatch of critically endangered Baltic Sea harbour porpoise must stop**

16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Baltic Sea harbour porpoise is facing extinction. Only a few hundred animals are left, and under continued threat from bycatch, environmental contaminants, prey depletion and disturbance from underwater noise. Today, on the International Day of the Baltic harbour porpoise, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and WWF urge Baltic Member States to uphold their legal obligation to protect the Baltic porpoises, in particular from bycatch, which is recognized as the greatest cause of their mortality in the Baltic Sea.

### **Coalition Clean Baltic - Row over the Atlantic: a new collaboration to save the Baltic harbour porpoise**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and the Swedish adventurers Måns Kämpe and Sören Kjellkvist announce the launch of a **collaboration to save the endangered Baltic whale, the harbour porpoise**. **During the winter 2021-22 they'll row over the Atlantic** from Portugal to the Caribbean, and while rowing, they'll write a **daily report** and publish updates on the journey and facts & figures on the harbour porpoise:

[Row over the Atlantic: a new collaboration to save the Baltic harbour porpoise | Coalition Clean Baltic \(ccb.se\)](#)

### **Danish Fishermen PO always have a lot to tell – some of it here more or less Baltic**

#### **In the newspaper Fishing News 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**

**The Baltic fleet and fish have to fit together:** After several difficult years in the Baltic [naming for example closures, bycatch rules, cormorants, seals], Danish fishermen are ready to take the initiative to propose and carry out a scrapping scheme. Kim Kær Hansen gives the reasons why this is needed, so do Thomas Thomsen from the organisation on Bornholm and Allan Buch from the organisation based around the Belts. The message to the minister is to set aside as much money as possible for scrapping. Meanwhile, the President of the DFPO is calling for the long-awaited political action plan for the Baltic – discussions began in 2019.

**The Baltic Pipe gas pipeline is on the way:** fishermen are warned to be aware of the new gas pipeline that's being laid in the North Sea, Belt and Baltic.

#### **In the newspaper Fishing News 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021:**

**Danish Fishermen on course towards a common future:** the DFPO has produced a new ambitious plan for the future based on: full and fair compensation due to Brexit, invest in the future [as in green], a new development and demonstration centre, future management, smart fisheries control, attract youngsters to the profession, development of the coastal fishery. This was presented at the recent Annual General Assembly of the DFPO and there'll be more to tell in the coming edition. Full text and nice pictures in Danish here:

<https://fiskeriforening.dk/media/8150/danskernes-fiskere-kursen-mod-en-faelles-fremtid.pdf>

**Aid scheme extended to regulate seals near Bornholm:** Fishermen are experiencing increasing problems with grey seals. Since 2016 there's been a trial scheme for fishermen with a hunting licence to shoot up to 40 grey seals. This hasn't solved the problem, so the authorities will extend the scheme and to allow up to 80 grey seals to be shot.

#### **And DFPO just held its General Assembly – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021:**

**The new policy initiative by DFPO was presented.** The DFPO President highlighted the major challenges and problems that Brexit and COVID have created for the sector. One of the proposals put forward was the need for a major restricting of the fleet to reduce vessel numbers. In concrete terms this means using some of the so-called Brexit reserve to help carry out a scrapping scheme, and as an addition to the compensation that fishermen affected by Brexit are entitled to. Reported on in the Danish FiskerForum 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021:

[https://fiskerforum.dk/danmarks-fiskeriforening-i-nyt-udspil-vi-vil-vaere-danskernes-fiskere/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fiskerforum\\_nyhedsopdatering\\_ugentlig&utm\\_term=2021-05-21](https://fiskerforum.dk/danmarks-fiskeriforening-i-nyt-udspil-vi-vil-vaere-danskernes-fiskere/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_nyhedsopdatering_ugentlig&utm_term=2021-05-21)

**More on that centre for development for the fisheries.** The proposal is to have it located near to one of the big ports in north or western Jutland (Hanstholm would like it) and to have this as a centre for developing a sustainable fishery. – developing gears, focus on marine environment and sustainability, cooperation with science and research and to increase awareness about fishing Reported on in the Danish FiskerForum 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021:

[https://fiskerforum.dk/dfpo-oensker-nyt-udviklingscenter-for-fiskeriet-taettere-paa-de-stoerre-fiskerihavne/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fiskerforum\\_nyhedsopdatering\\_ugentlig&utm\\_term=2021-05-21](https://fiskerforum.dk/dfpo-oensker-nyt-udviklingscenter-for-fiskeriet-taettere-paa-de-stoerre-fiskerihavne/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_nyhedsopdatering_ugentlig&utm_term=2021-05-21)

**DFPO elections – the usual suspects:** After the annual general assembly of the DFPO, the Management Board carries on with the same members. For the Baltic, this means Kim Kær Hansen, vice president (Klintholmhavn Fisheries Association), Thomas Thomsen (Bornholm and Christiansø Association) and Allan Buch (for the Belts).

Fiskerforum reported 25th May 2021

[https://fiskerforum.dk/alle-dfpos-bestyrelsesmedlemmer-fortsaetter-efter-kredsindstillinger/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fiskerforum\\_daglig\\_nyhedsopdatering&utm\\_term=2021-05-26](https://fiskerforum.dk/alle-dfpos-bestyrelsesmedlemmer-fortsaetter-efter-kredsindstillinger/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-05-26)

#### **The Fisheries Secretariat Legal toolkit for river protection can help save the eel**

5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

A new toolkit providing guidance to civil society organisations on how to protect rivers from hydropower developments was released. The kit was produced by the Lawyers for Rivers Initiative launched in 2018. River ecosystems and the biodiversity that they contain are among the most endangered habitats on Earth. In the last decades, there has been a rapid expansion of new hydropower projects in Europe, particularly small hydropower. They are often promoted as a green and climate-change neutral source of energy, but the real contribution of new hydropower projects to Europe's electricity supply is being questioned. In addition, all hydropower installations have disastrous consequences for river ecosystems. They disrupt the connectivity – the free flow – of the river and hinders the movements of the species that live there, the transport of sediments, as well as affects the quantity and quality of ground and surface waters.

#### **The Fisheries Secretariat: EU Must Respond to Baltic Sea Ecosystem and Fisheries Crash With Urgent, Radical Measures**

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

[Press release: EU Must Respond to Baltic Sea Ecosystem and Fisheries Crash With Urgent, Radical Measures – The Fisheries Secretariat \(fishsec.org\)](#)

### **FSK PO Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery PO: looking for someone burning for a green future to head their Secretariat**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Hanne Lyng Winther writes that in a short time, FSK PO has experience significant growth and results. The coastal fishery using low impact gears has come onto the agenda - politically and on the market. Given the ambitious level of activity that they now set, FSK PO is looking for someone to head their Secretariat. Details and requirements are here, and deadline is 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021:

<https://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/braender-du-ogsaa-for-en-groen-fremtid-saa-goer-en-forskel-i-fsk-po/>

### **Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations report on the annual release of eel**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The FFFA reports that because of Brexit, it's no longer possible to buy baby eel from the UK. So this year the eel come from France (the Garonne River). This year 154,000 eel fry have been released in Finland, of which the Institute for Natural Resources releases 100,000 for stock management purposes. Eel is classified as extremely endangered, but since 2011 the number of eel fry has been showing a slightly positive improvement. Release of eel is part of the programme to help restore the eel stock. This year, the eel has been driven by car from France and has been in quarantine in Sweden en route. In Swedish/Finnish:

[Franska ålyngel får bilskjuts till Finland - Ahven.net](https://www.ahven.net/franska-alyngel-far-bilskjuts-till-finland-ahven.net)

### **Focus on the Fishermen of the Åland Islands**

31<sup>st</sup> May

Here in the Åland Islands Fishermen's Association, with Linda Sundström in charge of daily activities and projects is in focus. The waters around the Åland Islands are privately owned or shared by groups of co-owners. There are professional and part-time fishermen. Herring has been the traditional fishery, as well as coastal fishery for pike, perch and whitefish, and salmon; as well as a profitable cod fishery until the cod ban two years ago. They hope for better times for active fishermen with local coastal fishing and increased sales of fish in the local market as well as opportunities for new fishermen to be able to start in the industry.

In Swedish:

<https://ahven.net/sv/yleinen-sv/2021/05/31/fiskeriradgivning-i-130-ar-aland-fiskare/>

### **Marine Ingredients MID and Fcap – it's about advice for short-lived species**

26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Marine Ingredients, Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation and DFPO met the Danish Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Food to talk about the critical situation facing industrial fishing and the fishmeal industry due to Brexit. Not, it's not Baltic, but a focus on the need to develop long-term management plans for industrial species so as to avoid the so-called yoyo quotas and a downward trend. In their view, the models are becoming more and more complex with extra layers of precaution - and here comes the Fcap, introduced to ensure that there's a 95% probability that a spawning stock stays above the lower limit of Blim. MID's senior biologist says that the Fcap parameter contains uncertainty and is better used for longer lived species.

In Danish:

<https://maring.org/news-events/foretraede-for-folketinges-miljoe-og-foedevareudvalg/>

### **WWF reacts to the Commission's European Green Deal**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

WWF's European Policy Office thinks that the Commission's Communication on the Blue Economy is a much-needed blue dimension to the European Green Deal. They note the language shifting to sustainability. They think the proposed "Blue Forum" must incorporate all pillars of sustainability. WWF supports the Commission's sustainable blue economy agenda, including climate neutrality, biodiversity restoration and protection, sustainable seafood (including stronger fisheries control), and the sustainable use of marine areas through ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning.

[https://www.wwf.eu/what\\_we\\_do/oceans/?uNewsID=3410966](https://www.wwf.eu/what_we_do/oceans/?uNewsID=3410966)

### **Swedish Fishermen PO and a Norwegian professor on the Baltic cod – it will get big again**

27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

They refer to news from a Norwegian scientist Bastian Star, at Oslo University (research in ecology and evolution) that overfishing hasn't caused major genetic changes in the Baltic cod. Recent research shows that the fish don't have any genetic limitations in terms of growth or potential. The links to Swedish and Norwegian are here:

<https://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/breaking--norsk-professor-mener--sters--torsken-vil-vokse-sig-stor-igen>

<https://forskning.no/fisk-genetikk-hav-og-fiske/torsken-har-gode-sjanser-for-a-vokse-seg-stor-igjen/1863695>

### **WWF held a seminar on Marine Spatial Planning 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 "Marine Spatial Planning, a solution for our ocean: How an ecosystem based approach can achieve healthier seas"**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AkGvRzLeWw-1dx4GkdT35PR95VnGznlu>

The webinar shared knowledge and best practices on MSP processes across the EU based on inputs from key experts at EU, regional and national levels during a high-level discussion.

There is a Directive on MSP; fewer than 7 Member States have submitted their MSPs. And by July 2022 the Commission has to report on implementation of MSP Directive.

- **Dr. Cormac Walsh, Independent Researcher and Consultant** spoke about the planning perspective. It's complex task, try to bring all round the table, and use ecosystem based approach. International best practice; German coast was one example. EBM/MSP is complex and ambitious and requires integration across disciplines and stakeholder groups. There are two approaches: Community-based stewardship, science-based management. Both are valid and we need both and need to find a balance. Suggests different approach to the coastal/12 nm zone looks different to the more offshore/international waters.
- Sarah Vanden Eede, Oceans Policy Officer, WWF Belgium presented the Belgian marine spatial plan running since 2014. Five activities have exclusive rights. There's lots of stakeholder involvement. She highlighted fisheries and extraction as the two most damaging activities. Strong wish to do better. How to reconcile offshore renewable energy and biodiversity >>>> biodiverse and climate resilient North Sea so they don't get played out together.
- Xavier Guillou, Team Leader for Renewable Energy and Maritime Spatial Planning, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission He informed on the EU MSP Directive from 2014. By 2021 Member States have to establish their national plans. MSP Directive came after a number of other EU Directives were adopted and we need bridges across these. Offshore wind has come later and become a very big sector – planning the sea in relation to this is also important. A study from the Commission will be published in June 2021.

### **WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme Newsletter May 2021**

This should keep you busy as you read different things, including:

Interview with Alf Norkko, Professor Helsinki University [see him below under Baltic Breakfast], eutrophication and agriculture, wetlands in Estonia, Latvian water management, sustainable agriculture, harbour porpoise, restrict fishing in MPAs, underwater noise, fisheries control and monitoring:

<https://www.wwfbaltic.org/newsletter/wwf-baltic-newsletter-may-2021/>

### **BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings**

**BALTFISH Forum** next BALTFISH Forum is planned on 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021, from 13:00 until 17:00. Latvia takes over the Presidency from Estonia from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Agenda:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/BALTFISH-Forum-meeting-\(1\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/BALTFISH-Forum-meeting-(1))

### **Harbour Porpoise - a second Joint Recommendation to come from BALTFISH**

BALTFISH has to submit a second Joint Recommendation no later than 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021. This is work in progress and BALTFISH will continue its discussions on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at its High Level Group meeting. IT has to deal with additional mitigation measures (including where appropriate use of ADDs) outside the areas covered by the first BALTFISH Joint Recommendation. The Baltfish HLG will endeavour to agree on more detailed control measures linked to the control of the mitigation measures.

The Commission continues to give it high priority and is still working on developing emergency measures.

## **Commission news and meetings**

### **DG Mare has a management plan**

This states the mission for DG Mare, its strategic plan for 2020-2024, and then the details of the work for 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/management-plan-mare-2021\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/management-plan-mare-2021_en_0.pdf)

### **Green and Blue European Green Deal and sustainable Blue Economy**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The European Commission proposed a new approach for a sustainable blue economy for the industries and sectors related to oceans, seas and coasts. A sustainable blue economy is essential to achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal and ensuring a green and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

Frans **Timmermans**, Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal said: *“Healthy oceans are a precondition for a thriving blue economy. Pollution, overfishing and habitat destruction, coupled with the effects of the climate crisis, all threaten the rich marine biodiversity that the blue economy depends on. We must change tack and develop a sustainable blue economy where environmental protection and economic activities go hand in hand.”*

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_2341](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2341)

The Roadmap for the Blue Economy is here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12659-Maritime-sector-a-green-post-COVID-future\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12659-Maritime-sector-a-green-post-COVID-future_en)

### **European Maritime Day 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

This year's event was virtual. 2,400 signed up, and the main speakers were in situ in Den Helder, Netherlands. EMD 2021 was the chance to put Den Helder in the spotlight (an area where there are multiple uses of the marine space). Various issues were on the agenda. The Commissioner Sinkievicus made an opening speech and referred to the Green Deal: the best and only way to achieve long term growth is to move from linear to circular production. Sustainable blue economy essential to achieve the Green Deal. No green without blue, hence sustainable blue economy. He recalled that the Commission has just released the Commission roadmap + Communication on how to move towards the Blue Economy - revolving around thematic axes: decarbonisation, circularity, biodiversity, responsible seafood production. And underpinned by some horizontal activities. It's in line with Biodiversity Strategy 2030 to create the 30% of MPAs, and the zero pollution action plan, new algae initiative, new offshore renewable energy strategy, upscale work on ocean research, observation and access to finance, blue invest fund launched last year and to further upscale opportunities by blending finance through the EMFAF. LINK:

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

### **DG Mare has its own newsletter - here from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – and with lots of blue and green**

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/newsletter-archives/32731>

### **A meeting on the landing obligation Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The STECF EWG 21-05 Evaluation of the joint recommendations of the landing obligation and technical measures 17 – 21 May 2021: it was decided to organise a separate meeting for observers to attend in order to be informed on the preliminary assessment completed by the EWG. This was on Friday 28th May 2021.

### **DG ENV meeting if its Marine Strategy Coordination Group Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The main topics were:

- Underwater noise
- Water & Marine Directors' meeting
- Commission Action Plan for fisheries & marine ecosystems
- Member State reporting according to the MSFD
- The upcoming review of the MSFD

LINK:

[BSAC - BSAC Newsletter latest \(May 2021\)](#)

### **From DG ENVIRONMENT towards a Green Week 31.5.21 – 4.6.21**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Commission adopted today the EU Action Plan 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' entitled "Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All". The Action Plan is accompanied by two Staff Working Documents, one on Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook and the other on Digital Solutions for Zero Pollution. You will find all documents (see list below) and more information on the updated web page: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en)

They are holding a Green Week (virtual conference from 31 May-4 June 2021) to join the debate. Here's the latest programme and information on registration at: <https://www.eugreenweek.eu/>

### **The Commission Seminar on Fisheries Science , 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

This will focus on marine protected areas (MPAs). Most marine ecosystems have suffered changes through anthropogenic activities. The need to protect or restore marine biodiversity and fish stocks has led to increasing calls for the establishment of MPAs. With a target of protecting at least 30% of EU waters by 2030, MPAs are an integral element of the Biodiversity Strategy, promoting a larger EUwide network of protected areas with specific fisheries-management measures. The seminar will include an introductory presentation about how MPAs can benefit fisheries. The programme also includes a presentation on a successful case study about the Torre Guaceto MPA (Italy) in the Mediterranean. The scientists involved will offer insights into the outcomes, lessons learnt and recommendations from their work.

And different stakeholders will take part in a panel discussion to explore several aspects of MPAs and their benefits for fisheries. Main issues on the agenda:

How can MPAs best contribute to fisheries sustainability?

Do local fisherman/fisherwomen benefit from marine protected areas?

Are marine protected areas enough to give fisheries a future?

How could different stakeholder groups contribute to the establishment of marine protected areas?

Here's the information on the seminar:

[https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/2021-seminar-fisheries-science-supporting-fisheries-marine-protected-areas-2021-04-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/2021-seminar-fisheries-science-supporting-fisheries-marine-protected-areas-2021-04-27_en)

### **EMODNET European Marine and Observation and Data Network Conference 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The open bit is on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Lots of stuff to find out more about EMODnet, what it does, what data it gathers and how to use it:

<https://emodnet.eu/en/emodnet-open-conference-programme>

### **The FARNET newsletter for April 2021**

Has news on project to help reduce fishing gear waste and aid for small scale fisheries to implement measures to reduce the environmental impact of fisheries.

<https://mailchi.mp/farnet/farnet-flash-april-2021>

### **BONUS is now BANOS**

News from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

[https://www.bonusportal.org/publications/e-bulletin/a/e-bulletin\\_139\\_6.5.2021](https://www.bonusportal.org/publications/e-bulletin/a/e-bulletin_139_6.5.2021)

### **The next Inter-ACs meeting – when the ACs meet DG Mare is on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

More information soon.

## **European Parliament news and meetings**

**The PECH Newsletter „Trawler – May 2021“** prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries is now available on the PECH website:

[Newsletters](#) | [Home](#) | [PECH](#) | [Committees](#) | [European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Inter alia it gives the lowdown on the European Green Deal:** Developing a sustainable blue economy in the European Union 17/05/2021 and the detailed agenda for the blue economy to: • Achieve the objectives of climate neutrality and zero pollution notably by developing offshore renewable energy • Switch to a circular

economy and reduce pollution • Preserve biodiversity and invest in nature - protecting 30% of the EU's sea area will reverse biodiversity loss, increase fish stocks, contribute to climate mitigation and resilience, and generate significant financial and social benefits. • Support climate adaptation and coastal resilience → • Ensure sustainable food production • Improve management of space at sea: A report on the implementation of the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning will be issued in 2022, following the adoption of national maritime spatial plans in March 2021. The Commission will also continue to create the conditions for a sustainable blue economy internationally following the international ocean governance agenda.

### **PECH produced its opinion on the Biodiversity Strategy 2030**

69 suggestions from the PECH Committee to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PECH-AD-657275\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PECH-AD-657275_EN.pdf)

### **The PECH Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems:** they did a final vote on this. Final report not there yet.

**The hearing with Dr Susan Steele, appointed Executive Director of EFCA.** She will be starting work 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. The ten-year term of the outgoing Executive Director ends. Susan Steele gave a statement. She informed that for the last eight years, she's led the Irish Sea Fisheries Regulation Authority which deals with all aspects of fisheries and trade. She stated that EFCA has established effectiveness, capability and impact. At EFCA she is looking forward to issues of embracing the new Control Regulation and the details of the new trade + cooperation agreement with the UK. EFCA depends on internal capability and its external excellence. She attaches importance to the well-being and work-life balance and to improving gender and geographical balance. It is vital that EFCA continues to liaise with Commission and Member States. It applies to all aspects of maritime life, protect European fishing grounds for the citizen, apply innovation and technology and data and through world class training and education, and work on the coastguard function. EFCA committed to being leader in data use and application. EFCA is committed to training and exchange of inspectors – with level playing field and commonality. She was grateful for the increase in budget to EFCA. There were congratulations from several MEPs and some questions.

**Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries: 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

### **News from other ACs**

#### **Inter- AC**

**Special hearing from the Inter-ACs meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the functioning of the Advisory Councils.** The BSAC has sent a reply to DG Mare:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-on-how-to-improve-the-functioning-of-t>

### **EFCA Control Agency news and meetings**

#### **EFCA: New Real Time Closure (RTC) established by Denmark**

26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

EFCA informed that Denmark established a Real Time Closure in their waters of the Skagerrak from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at midnight. The Danish Fisheries Agency by inspection of a fishing vessel in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) no 724/2010 of 12 August 2010, have revealed that the amount of juvenile fish in the catches is found to be too high. Due to this information, it has been decided to close an area for the period from 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at midnight.

<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/pressroom/new-real-time-closure-rtc-established-denmark-1>

#### **EFCA on compliance with the Landing Obligation in the Baltic**

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

BALTFISH asked EFCA to publish the executive summary of the LO compliance evaluation 2017-2018 performed in cooperation with the Baltic Sea MS. So the evaluation was carried out in 2017 and 2018. It has found an overall good level of compliance with the LO in pelagic gear herring and sprat fisheries.

However, the trend in other demersal segments in the Baltic Sea remains concerning, with a lower level of compliance with the LO in the fixed and towed gears catching plaice, as well as towed gear fleet segments targeting cod.

The evaluation was carried out by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), in cooperation with the Member States Control Expert Group for the Baltic Sea Fisheries Forum (BALTFISH). It covered plaice, in addition to the species already included in the previous analysis, such as cod, Atlantic salmon, herring and sprat. It's been published:

<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/pressroom/efca-has-carried-out-evaluation-compliance-landing-obligation-selected-fisheries>

And DG Mare also carries the news:

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

[https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/efca-landing-obligation-evaluation-shows-overall-compliance-baltic-sea-2021-05-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/efca-landing-obligation-evaluation-shows-overall-compliance-baltic-sea-2021-05-28_en)

### **A meeting on this some time in September**

BALTFISH Control Expert Group (CEG) has asked EFCA to organise a joint meeting between the BALTFISH CEG, the BSAC, and EFCA to present these results, explain the methodology and discuss the implementation of the LO in the Baltic Sea in general. DG MARE will also be invited, as well as some scientific representatives (i.e. ICES). A date in September to be found.

## **ICES and science**

### **The ICES advice for 2022 released on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The ICES advice for the Baltic is available [here](#):

BUT the advice on salmon in subdivisions 22–31, salmon in Subdivision 32, Western Baltic cod and herring in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a. and 7.d, autumn spawners, is postponed and will be released in September.

### **ICES ANNUAL CONFERENCE (ASC) 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - Virtual**

Due to COVID, the ICES ASC 2021 is organized as a virtual conference. It will consist of live interactive sessions and pre-recorded presentations. Live sessions run from Monday to Thursday at 15-20 CEST, and Friday at 15-18 CEST. All pre-recorded presentations are available for on demand viewing between 23 August - 30 September. Further information and more detailed programme will follow soon.

Register at:

[Registration \(ices.dk\)](https://www.ices.dk/Registration)

### **Do area-based fisheries management measures benefit biodiversity?**

#### **ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG workshop tests criteria to identify other effective area-based conservation measures - do area-based fisheries management measures qualify?**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The recent ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS) addressed this need and investigated how to evaluate areas with spatial fisheries measures in place as OECM, specifically the extent to which area-based fisheries management measures (ABFM) may contribute significantly enough to biodiversity conservation to be identified as OECM. Participants applied OECM criteria from the guidance document developed by Serge Garcia and IUCN colleagues, *OECMs in marine capture fisheries: Systematic approach to identification, use and performance assessment* to chosen examples of spatial measures that were managed through ABFM. Six case studies from the North Atlantic were evaluated, differing in size, biodiversity features, types of measures in place, jurisdictional authority, and expected biodiversity benefits: Northwestern North Sea Sandeel Fishery Closure; Lophelia Coral Conservation Area;

NAFO Sponge Closures; NEAFC Haddock Box; NAFO Seamount (Corner Rise) Closure; and Lyme Bay Mussel Farm. [Do area-based fisheries management measures benefit biodiversity? \(ices.dk\)](https://www.ices.dk)

### **ICES work on seabed impact**

ICES has been working on a trade-off analysis relating to the fishing pressures – it has done a thorough assessment and will deliver its advice on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

## **Other meetings and news of activities**

### **ASCOBANS (the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas just held its Jastarnia Group meeting**

25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Jastarnia is all about close cooperation to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans.

There was a lot on the agenda:

[https://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/ascobans\\_jg17\\_doc1.2b\\_prov-annotated-agenda-schedule.pdf](https://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/ascobans_jg17_doc1.2b_prov-annotated-agenda-schedule.pdf)

Contracting parties had the chance to give an update on the past year, monitoring, distribution, sightings, trials e.g. with pingers, cameras, underwater noise etc. Representatives of DG Mare, DG ENV and the BALTFISH Presidency took part and gave updates on issues related to harbour porpoise. Jastarnia members expressed their concern about state of play and lack of developments with developing and adopting mitigation measures to prevent harbour porpoise bycatch. It was also informed at this meeting that the project application for a SAMBAH II project was not successful. Jastarnia members expressed disappointment at this news. SAMBAH II applied for EU LIFE funding to work more on filling gaps in understanding the abundance, distribution, and status of the population under current threats.

### **EUROFISH webinar on Market diversification: Breaking into foreign seafood markets during the pandemic**

18<sup>th</sup> may 2021

With focus on China, Germany, Ukraine and the UK and the challenges that COVID has caused all around the world, and now the opportunities for developing markets post-COVID.

LINK here

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

### **BALTIC BREAKFAST impact on the Baltic Sea on climate change**

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Climate change is happening and at a fast pace. Increased temperature also affects the coastal ecosystems. The richest marine biodiversity is found at the coast, providing key ecosystem services for humans, which are challenged by climate change. Research at the Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre shows that the amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen in the Baltic Sea is no longer increasing, so eutrophication is being reduced. **Professor Alf Norkko, University of Helsinki gave a presentation on what's going on. The Baltic is at the forefront of changes. We've actually made some good progress on eutrophication and shifted the trends of both nitrogen and phosphorous. But there is a legacy. What complicates it: accelerating climate change and linked to biodiversity problem and our systems are changing fast. Shift focus from worry about nutrient and contaminants to climate change. HELCOM currently preparing a fact sheet about climate change. Associate Professor Tatiana Eremina, Russian State Hydrometeorological University focused on the ecosystem in eastern Gulf of Finland. She's a bit more optimistic and gave a bit less grim picture of what will happen to eutrophication. Nature gives us a chance to remedy the situation. Invasive species are usually considered not good. But here is an example of how an invasive species can give a positive effect. It's only 45 minutes and a good listen.**

<https://www.su.se/ostersjocentrum/english/communication/events/baltic-breakfast-russia-edition/baltic-breakfast-russia-edition-impact-on-the-baltic-sea-by-climate-change-1.554250>

## HELCOM

### **Assessing bycatch by HELCOM: Bycatch in Baltic Sea commercial fisheries: ACTION project**

This is all about how to avoid bycatch of marine mammals and waterbirds in gillnets. There is EU legislation in place to ensure conservation of these species. Is mortality due to bycatch? And how to develop high-risk areas for bycatch? The need is to combine information on bycatch rates with information on fishing effort. The project also looked at effectiveness and cost when pingers are used as a mitigation tool for reducing harbour porpoise bycatch.

<https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/STATE%20-%20CONSERVATION%2014-2021-824/MeetingDocuments/4J-64%20Bycatch%20assessment.pdf>

### **Singing the blues – HELCOM Blues on improved harmonisation between HELCOM and OSPAR - indicators for harbour porpoise 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

The aims of this workshop were to: • Collate a summary on data availability • Conclude on a viable methodology • Propose a harmonised (across the regions) approach to assess trends in harbour porpoise abundance. What took place at this meeting will be reported on at coming other HELCOM meetings

### **Other Effective Area Based Measures or OECMs - HELCOM planning for a regional workshop on OECMs in early 2022**

HELCOM writes that earlier marine conservation targets and actions had a clear focus on marine protected areas (MPAs). HELCOM explains that including other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) recognizes that other types of spatial conservation measures may also achieve important conservation gains. Other spatial management interventions can be included to conserve biodiversity. They can result in more effective conservation overall by enhancing the connectivity and representativity of area-based management and increasing the diversity of governance arrangements.

HELCOM has produced a background document. It's invited the contracting parties to HELCOM to submit proposals for case studies that are likely to meet the criteria for OECM.

### **HELCOM has a project proposal for an MPA LIFE project**

#### **It had a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to discuss development of the project**

#### **The project focuses on MPAs and it's about:**

Strengthening evidence base for MPA capacity

Gap analysis

Network effectiveness & MPAs as conservation tools

WP4: MPA Management (NB adaptive management is really key when it comes to ecosystem approach to MPAs. NB also this includes a section on fisheries management, measures to assess effectiveness of spatial protection measures - how to decide if something is effective.

WP5: MPA Monitoring- challenge on this, hard for managers, planners etc to justify MPAs and why is a core activity in order to do adaptive management - frequency and type of monitoring - follow up and evaluate on the status.

Project to run 2022-2027. And it gives chance for national approaches which have worked to be lifted to a regional scale and to develop at regional scale and disseminate at national scale. Words on the workflow of the project. There were words on how they plan to do it, which includes the creation of task teams.

### **A HELCOM Workshop on Pelagic Habitats (HELCOM Pelagic WS 1-2021) 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

It will be an online Joint Scoping Event between nominated experts and the HELCOM BLUES Project. It will ask: Why assess pelagic habitats? What are the existing indicators and approaches (Zooplankton indicator, Phytoplankton indicator), What are key issues to address - What are key functional groups or species to be included, and how can HOLAS III (assessing the Baltic) help?

## Other information/reading

### **Fiskerforum on fall in catches of eel from fresh water**

1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Source DTU's site Fiskepleje.dk

Fresh water, but link to the eel plan and general fall in catches and link to DK statistics website

[https://fiskerforum.dk/aale-fiskeriet-i-fersk-vand-er-stoet-faldende/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fiskerforum\\_daglig\\_nyhedsopdatering&utm\\_term=2021-05-02](https://fiskerforum.dk/aale-fiskeriet-i-fersk-vand-er-stoet-faldende/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-05-02)

### **The Wolin Fishermen's Association on harbour porpoise**

They have sent to the BSAC the position of coastal fishermen who fish in the Pomeranian Bay in the Baltic Sea. The position concerns the plans of the European Commission to prohibit the use of set nets as part of the protection of porpoises in the Pomeranian Bay. They've sent their letter to the Commissioner.

LINK:

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

### **Baltic Eye (Stockholm University) has information on contaminants on the seabed**

What environmental factors affect bottom communities?

This study shows that there is a great value in co-analyzing environmental monitoring data from different programmes. In a larger perspective, they state that levels of pollutants in the Baltic Sea are so high that even stations far from point sources of emissions have an impact on benthic fauna communities.

<https://balticeye.org/en/pollutants/contaminants-in-bottom-fauna/>

### **Danish Society for Nature Conservation has a go at bottom trawling**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Their headline: bottom trawling gear produces large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> in the sea

They refer to a study in the scientific journal Nature (from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021) which concludes that disturbance of the seabed by fishing released large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and which causes ocean acidification and contributes to global warming. In Danish:

[https://www.dn.dk/nyheder/forskning-bundslaeende-redskaber-udleder-store-maengder-co2-i-havet/?utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=127461406&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8QVLgZKDiyAlqPN\\_ttSbxuq\\_N8Q87xNpOWXm2zyqxiNLfL3nsZxHBMtVOHW-Ux5Z4IRMaJya8pVM0GZ9lvf0pzQqGgeg&utm\\_content=127461406&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.dn.dk/nyheder/forskning-bundslaeende-redskaber-udleder-store-maengder-co2-i-havet/?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=127461406&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8QVLgZKDiyAlqPN_ttSbxuq_N8Q87xNpOWXm2zyqxiNLfL3nsZxHBMtVOHW-Ux5Z4IRMaJya8pVM0GZ9lvf0pzQqGgeg&utm_content=127461406&utm_source=hs_email)

Don't know about Nature, but the related Guardian article 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 is here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/17/trawling-for-fish-releases-as-much-carbon-as-air-travel-report-finds-climate-crisis>

### **Seas at Risk has done a socio economic analysis on bottom trawling**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

<https://seas-at-risk.org/press-releases/benefits-quickly-outweigh-costs-of-banning-bottom-trawling-from-marine-protected-areas-2/>

### **Stockholm University has a policy brief on bottom trawling Reduce the impact from bottom trawling on marine ecosystems**

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

They provide a brief on this and the make some policy actions:

<https://www.su.se/ostersjocentrum/english/communication/policy-briefs/bottom-trawling-threatens-european-marine-ecosystems-1.557306>

### **FishAct and their encyclopaedia of fish Project launch**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

FishAct has created [this encyclopedia](#) to provide an engaging, easy to understand, informative platform where anybody can easily delve into any fish they may want to learn more about. They want to give fishes the chance to be in the spotlight, focusing on species that are common in Europe's seas and targeted by commercial fisheries.

<https://fishact.org/the-encyclopedia-of-fish/>

### **Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences: "The Herring stock in the Baltic Proper is being fished too hard"**

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Fisheries Secretariat takes this up. Researchers at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU suggest that "restrictions on trawling close to the coast could be a good measure", to protect local spawning stocks of herring. They also warn that "If we want fish stocks to have a healthy size structure, both management and research need to focus on developing and changing the management objectives that govern decisions at EU level". [SLU: "The Herring stock in the Baltic Proper is being fished too hard" – The Fisheries Secretariat \(fishsec.org\)](#) The Swedish is here:

<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2021/5/sillbestandet-i-egentliga-ostersjon-fiskas-for-hart/>

### **FAO Globefish and closing the net on IUU fishing 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

A digital talk at 15.00 CET. See here:

[http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/news-events/details-news/en/c/1402716/?utm\\_source=GLOBEFISH+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=6709623cd9-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_11\\_29\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_30087880c0-6709623cd9-587749981](http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/news-events/details-news/en/c/1402716/?utm_source=GLOBEFISH+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6709623cd9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_11_29_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_30087880c0-6709623cd9-587749981)

### **Marine litter and health and safety**

#### **All roads lead to Rom (it's not Rome): The Danish company PLASTIX makes new plastic from old fishing nets (with nice pictures)**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

From Fiskeritidende

<https://fiskeritidende.dk/nyheder/fiskerisektoren/2021-fiskerisektoren/plastix-spinder-ny-plast-af-kasserede-net/>

#### **Black muddy Danish beaches for the summer?**

Lynetteholm – a major city development for Copenhagen to serve as coastal protection, and to create a space for development (recreational and accommodation, probably). There's a majority in the Danish Parliament to adopt the project. – See on next page a map and diagram and a moan.

