

We wrote to members for contributions before end of June 2021. We heard from a couple of you, thanks.



Have a nice summer.

BSAC news and meetings

Some summer reading????? Then end of the BSAC year 2020-2021 and the Annual Report

Despite COVID, with no journeys and no “real” meetings, we think it was a very busy year and we’re proud to let you know that the BSAC Annual Report is on the website:

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

Under control and using science: Going back to the BSAC Executive Committee meeting with EFCA and ICES 6th May 2021

This really was a special meeting with EFCA and ICES. Morning session with EFCA. Afternoon session with ICES. Executive Director of EFCA Pascal Savouret and ICES ACOM Chair Mark Dickey-Collas joined the BSAC, together with some of their colleagues. Many and diverse questions were provided by members. EFCA and ICES gave detailed replies. The report and all relevant reading material is on the website:

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

The BSAC wrote to DG Mare about sulphur dioxide emissions in relation to the Control Regulation

This came up at the ExCom meeting on 6th May 2021 in discussions with EFCA.

Since 2020, there are rules to limit the quantity of sulphur used in fuel oil, and thus reduce sulphur emissions. The BSAC letter points out that the EU Control Regulation does not conform to the limits because vessels cannot tranship their load to another vessel, so as to save fuel and reduce emissions. Instead, vessels must go to the harbour. The BSAC has written to point this out. Please see the letter here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-about-control-of-sulphur-dioxide-emiss>

Yes, more science - on the Baltic fisheries, as well as developing mitigation measures for harbour porpoise. From the Joint Working Group meeting 8th and 9th June 2021

ICES ACOM Vice-Chair Colm Lordan gave a presentation of the scientific advice for the Baltic. Kaire Märtin, Estonian Ministry of Environment gave an update of work under the BALTFISH Presidency. You can find their presentations as well as the BSAC meeting report on the website:

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

The BSAC recommendations for Baltic fisheries 2022:

As output from the Working Group: the BSAC Secretariat drafted, and the Executive Committee has adopted them. Sent from the BSAC 1st July 2021. Find them here, together with a letter from the ExCom Chair to DG Mare:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-recommendations-for-the-fisheries-2022>

Reading from the Joint Working Group

One member has highlighted, in relation to the discussions at the meeting on exploitation of the Baltic sprat resources, one article on: **Harvesting forage fish can prevent fishing-induced population collapses of large piscivorous fish**, Soudijn et al. According to this article, reducing fishing pressures on forage fish may have unwanted negative side effects on piscivores. In some cases, decreasing forage-fish exploitation could cause declines, or even collapses, of piscivore stocks. The article shows that there can be good reasons not to under-exploit especially sprat in the Baltic. Find here:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/6/e1917079118.short>

Another member refers to a very recent (1st July) policy brief produced by Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre, **A 50 percent buffer in TAC decisions could be a powerful management tool**, addressing the inevitable uncertainties associated with fisheries management, scientific advice and ecosystem changes in the Baltic Sea. It focuses on central Baltic herring. According to the article, given the uncertainties, caution is needed, and this could be done by creating a buffer in TAC decisions to avoid risk of overfishing. Here:

<https://balticeye.org/en/policy-briefs/adapt-herring-fisheries-to-scientific-uncertainty/>

It's not over until the fat lady sings: what about advice on western Baltic cod and the salmon?

As one member says, about the fat lady. The ICES advice for western cod and salmon will be released on 15th September. So, the BSAC will meet again to discuss this advice and prepare its recommendations before the Council meeting in October. This will be done back-to-back with the coming General Assembly and ExCom meeting on 22nd September 2021 in Copenhagen.

The BSAC Management Team met on Friday 25th June 2021

They dealt with the external evaluation of the BSAC (drafting a Code of Conduct), further work on CFP reform (BSAC White Paper is work in progress), and planning dates for coming BSAC meetings.

Some of this will come up at the General Assembly in September. Selectivity in pelagic fishing (underwater mortality) should be on the agenda of the next Pelagic Working Group meeting. The management of seals and cormorants should be discussed at the next meeting of the EBM Working Group or in a theme session at an ExCom meeting. Experts from the Baltic Flag transnational project on seals and cormorants. "*The future of Baltic Sea small-scale fisheries: tackling the increasing impact of seals and cormorants predation*" could be invited to give presentations. Want to know about that project? Look no further:

https://balticfisheries.com/?fbclid=IwAR28r0GMG8d2xqSDvFxiG97Bd3GEBEO7nazghYQe_b_iARjhhVOnhmuPcE

Executive Committee and General Assembly on Wednesday 22nd September 2021

These meetings will take place in Copenhagen, all things being well. The ExCom Chair has invited the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Rasmus Prehn, as well as the Director General DG Mare Charlina Vitcheva. The minister has accepted the invitation. The main item will be elections. The BSAC has to elect a new Honorary Chair, Executive Committee members, an ExCom Chair, and a Vice Chair. If there's time, experts from DTU Aqua and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences will come to talk about the challenges facing the Baltic cod. Save the date and follow this link for more information:

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

General Assembly members: we want nominations from you by **20th August 2021**

What the BSAC Secretariat has been reporting on in June

MPAs in Commission Seminar on Fisheries Science 1st June 2021

The annual **Seminar on Fisheries Science** organised by DG MARE focused on marine protected areas (MPAs). It brought together a wide range of stakeholders such as scientists, MPA managers, fishing industry, NGOs, and the representatives of the European Commission, Parliament, Council and Member States. There was a welcome by Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries. He said our seas are facing threats, the effects of climate change and pollution affect the living marine resources. The EU has made progress in protecting the environment, but the policy framework is not adequately implemented. So with a target of protecting at least 30% of EU waters by 2030, MPAs are an integral element and an important part of the toolbox of the Biodiversity Strategy. On the agenda were:

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?

BSAC report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest/BSACReportScienceSeminar010621final.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

An FAO digital talk on IUU Fishing 4th June 2021

The messages were: ask where your seafood comes from, engage with NGOs to influence government, and empower the people.

Report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSACReportonIUUfishing4-6-21.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

EU dialogue for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit Monday 7th June 2021

This stakeholder event was organised in the framework of the EU dialogue for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. It was a chance to promote what the EU is doing politically to build sustainable food systems, and for the Summit to recognise the role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (also often called “blue food”). It’s about better food for more people; but remember those who produce the food or there won’t be anything to eat (Peter Breckling, Union of German Cutter Fishery represented the BSAC). Report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSAConEUDialoguefor-2021-UNFSS070621.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

DG ENV with POMESA meeting 11th June 2021: all about Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The busy agenda for DG ENV (and MARE): Biodiversity Strategy (and the 30%-10% targets), MPAs, evaluation of the MSFD, and state of play with EMFAF.

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSACReportfromPOMESA110621.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

HELCOM BENTHIC meeting 15th June 2021

Mapping and agreeing on number of units in the Baltic in order to be able to report to the MSFD according to good environmental status. That’s work in progress, but look out in the ICES news for the WKTRADE advice from ICES indicators of the pressure and impact of bottom-contacting fishing gear on the seabed, and of trade-offs in the catch and the value of landings: due 24th June 2021.

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSAConHELCOBENTHIC150621.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

Stockholm University Baltic Eye Baltic Breakfast meeting 18th June 2021

It’s not so much how much seafood to eat (consumption in Western Europe is almost at the recommended levels), but focus on consumer awareness of what sustainability is, diversify seafood consumption, and gear consumption away from red meat. There were also some words on Baltic stocks.

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSACreportBalticSeaCentre180621.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

EMODnet open conference 2021 14th – 16th June 2021

EMODnet is all about collection, storage and access of marine data. A network of organisations work together to observe the sea. It covers seven major disciplinary themes: bathymetry, geology, seabed habitats, chemistry, biology, physics and human activities. They want to deliver marine knowledge and have a vision for 2030

http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/BSAConEMODnet202114_160621.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

EU focus on Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for fishing gear Complimentary Webinar from Blue Circular Economy 29th June 2021

The webinar presented the EU Single-Use Plastic Directive in relation to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and the circular design of fishing gear. It was attended by various stakeholders with an interest in waste fishing gear. It presented EPR schemes for fishing gear as provided for by the EU Single Use Plastic Directive. These schemes aim at increasing the circularity of fishing gear and reducing their negative impact to the environment. The webinar also presented the request of the European Commission to the European Committee for Standardisation for the development of a standard for fishing gear. Report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest/BSAConCommissionWebinarPlastics290621.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

World Recreational Fisheries Conference 2021 28th and 30th June 2021

This online event with over 40 presentations and two keynotes (how to manage this sector effectively and how to encourage new, young members) gave the chance to showcase some interesting research in recreational fisheries and angling around the world. And yes, there were things Baltic: Governing the recreational dimension of global fisheries with a professor from Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries and growth differences in pike in the southern Baltic Sea of Germany. BTW: they want to produce a special issue with scientific papers from this event. Report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/BSAC-Newsletter-latest/BSAConRecreationalfisheriesJune2021.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

BALTFISH Forum meeting on 21st June 2021

The BSAC Secretariat created a BALTFISH page where we can put past reports and agenda for coming meetings. Find the BSAC report from the meeting, as well as the presentation of the Fisheries Secretariat project Return of the cod here:

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

And by the way, Fisheries Secretariat is writing a draft scientific report on their project; in August they want to send it to BSAC members to get some feedback and comments from them.

BALTFISH Second Joint Recommendation on mitigation measures for harbour porpoise

No to reveal all, it includes a proposal for a temporal closure and temporal obligatory use of ADDs, as well as a declaration of intent on national measures. It was sent to the BSAC on 30th June and there are just 12 days to send a reply.

Latvia takes over the Presidency on 1st July 2021.

In anticipation of that the ExCom Chair has invited the Latvian Director of Fisheries and Head of Fisheries Strategy Division to a meeting with the Management Team on Tuesday 10th August 2021. See the invitation here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-MT-meeting-with-Latvian-Presidency>

The BSAC wants to discuss how to improve collaboration with BALTFISH.

Commission news and meetings

From the Inter-Advisory Councils meeting 5th May 2021

DG Mare has sent its own report from this meeting (BSAC already reported). Find it here:

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

The Commission's Annual Communication on the CFP

The Annual Communication on the CFP "Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2022" was adopted on 9th June. It shows that in line with the European Green Deal objectives, EU fisheries are moving towards more sustainability, supporting the transition towards a healthy and environmentally friendly EU food system and underpinning sustainable sources of revenue for EU fishers. The sector's socio-economic performance remains good, despite the coronavirus crisis, also due to the swift support of the Commission. The Communication calls for further efforts to protect marine resources, both through maintaining high levels of ambition within the EU and by striving to achieve the same high standard in the work with non-EU countries. It's a public consultation with deadline **31st August** to express views on the fishing opportunities for 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2875

The record of meetings under EU-Russia agreement 2019

EU and Russia last met in 2019, under the agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation on cooperation in fisheries and conservation of the living resources in the Baltic Sea. The meetings were: 12th Session of the Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Committee, 9th meeting of the Working Group on Control and Monitoring and 9th Meeting of Working Group on Management Plans for Living Marine Resources in the Baltic Sea. There were no meetings in 2020. The Russian side has informed DG Mare that they would like to organise the next meeting this year. Russia is in principle the host country and is willing to host the meeting, but DG Mare will need to see how the Covid situation evolves. BSAC members can get copies of the meeting reports from the Secretariat.

A reply from DG ENV about the EU Biodiversity Strategy

In April, the BSAC Secretariat wrote to DG ENV about the targets in the Strategy of 30% protected areas and 10% for strict protection, categorizing fishing and hunting alongside mining as an extractive activity. DG ENV has replied explaining the workings of the Marine Expert Group, which is under the Birds and Habitats Directive, and inviting the BSAC to take part as observer. They also note the BSAC invitation to a future BSAC meeting. Please see the letters here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-to-DG-Environment-about-EU-Biodiversit>

The next Inter-ACs meeting – the ACs meet DG Mare 15th July 2021

This half-day meeting will deal with financial issues, the Delegated Act on the functioning of the ACs, and presentation of its annual communication on fishing opportunities. The Secretariat will represent the BSAC. The BSAC has already sent some input on how to improve the functioning of the ACs, based on the limited input received from members:

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

Draft agenda for meeting:

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

Fisheries: New report shows progress, but also shortcomings in the implementation of the Control Regulation

22nd June 2021

The Commission published a report on the implementation of the Fisheries Control Regulation for the period 2015-2019. There have been significant improvements in the implementation of the current Regulation, but compared to the previous reporting period (2010-2014), the report also points to shortcomings. Progress was made particularly in the use of satellite-based tracking systems for fishing vessels, by extending the electronic reporting of catch data and automating cross-checks of fisheries data. Member States have also improved their sanctioning systems, as confirmed by the recent Study on Member States Systems to Sanction Infringements to the CFP rules. However, the report also found shortcomings in areas such as: control and verification of engine power; weighing procedures; control of the landing obligation; control of the external fleet; and sanctioning.

Report on sanctions: https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/fisheries-control-commission-publishes-study-member-states-sanctioning-systems-infringements_en

Report on the implementation:

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/fisheries-new-report-shows-progress-also-shortcomings-implementation-control-regulation-2021_en

Commission Consultation on engine replacement - the EMFAF on engine replacement >>>> reducing CO2 emissions

DG Mare started a feedback consultation for a Commission draft implementing regulation on engine replacement under EMFAF. This is to establish methodological elements for measuring the reduction of CO2 emissions from fishing vessel engines, in order to provide a harmonised framework covering all Member States. For fishing vessels between 12m and 24m, any new engine installed with support from the European

Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) must emit at least 20% less CO2 emissions than the previous engine. The deadline for taking part in the consultation is 23rd July 2021. ExCom was invited to comment. The consultation is here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12914-CO2-emissions-of-engines-methodology-for-their-reduction_en

Regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) - the study commissioned by DG Mare

Done your homework, members? You've all been encouraged to take part in the survey. The link to the English and Polish questionnaires are here:

- English: <https://www.mragcloud.net/survey/index.php/737895?lang=en>
- Polish: <https://www.mragcloud.net/survey/index.php/737895?lang=pl>

The deadline for filling in the survey is July 16th 2021

EUMOFA reporting May 2021 – catch the pelagics

Canned sardine products are among the most consumed preserved fish products in EU and include more than just sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*). In 2019, EU produced 73.669 tonnes of canned sardine, sprat and sardinella (all species combined).

See section 1.5: Commodity of the month: small pelagics page 14:

And see first sales in selected countries from page 4 (including DK, EST, LAT, LITH, PL, SW)

<https://eumofa.eu/documents/20178/454836/MH5+2021+EN.pdf#page=40>

What's for supper? EUMOFA on frozen cod fillet in the EU

Cod is still one of the top five seafood species consumed in the EU. Ok, this report focuses on Belgium, France and the Netherlands. But it gives a comprehensive picture of production and market trends. And the high levels of consumption come mainly from imports. French imports mainly from China, Germany and the Netherlands. Belgian imports mainly from the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. Dutch imports mainly from Russia and Iceland. EU self-sufficiency in 2018 was only 7%. The product costs are influenced by the processing involved.

https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/459481/PTAT+Frozen+Cod+fillet_BE_FR_NL.pdf/facac7a4-022a-21f0-7ab2-5ece22f44643?t=1624893688425

Learn about Atlantic cod - species profile in EUMOFA

https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/137160/Atlantic+cod_31-1.pdf

European Parliament news and meetings

The PECH Newsletter „Trawler – June 2021“ isn't yet on the PECH website:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/home/newsletters>

There was a public hearing on Brexit “Future of EU-UK fisheries relations after Brexit”

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-future-of-eu-uk-fisher/product-details/20210602CAN61162>

A study on costs and benefits of fish stock recovery areas + other area-based conservation measures

A contract opportunity has been issued for this study: “Costs and benefits of fish stock recovery areas and other effective area-based conservation measures as tools for fisheries management - Case study assessments” See on the link here:

<https://research4committees.blog/2021/06/23/contract-research-project-on-costs-and-benefits-of-fish-stock-recovery-areas-and-other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures-as-tools-for-fisheries-management-case-study-assessment/>

The European Parliament adopted its resolution on the Biodiversity Strategy - a further move towards to bottom trawling?

31st May 2021

You all know that, and the full text with 188 resolutions is on the Parliament website:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2021-0179_EN.html

Resolution number 74, referring to disturbance of the seabed and bottom trawling, includes the call to ensure implementation of relevant Regulations and calls to limit where necessary the use of bottom trawling in other coastal areas.

The Danish news Fiskerforum picked up on it: EU getting closer to a ban on bottom trawling

10th June 2021

It refers to the resolution, and refers to concerns expressed by the Dutch and Belgian fisheries sectors about the future of the sector. It also adds that another resolution (76) calls on the Commission to produce a definition of super trawlers and to think about measures restricting their activities in EU waters, in particular prohibiting activities in protected areas. Danish:

https://fiskerforum.dk/eu-naermer-sig-et-forbud-mod-bundtrawl-efter-afstemning-i-europa-parlamentet/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-06-10

And the Danish Fishing News reported 19th June 2021 on it, with the headline EU has NOT decided to ban trawling.

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries: 12th -13th July 2021 An agenda here:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PECH-OJ-2021-07-12-1_EN.pdf

News from other ACs

A map on European offshore wind projects (English only) for information

Sent to us from the NWWAC. Sent direct to members.

EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA held its Advisory Board meeting on 15th April 2021

The BSAC Chair took part. EFCA's report from the meeting is here:

https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/atoms/files/FINAL_Conclusions_ADV_%20Board_15.04.2021.pdf

ICES and science

The news broke: ICES General Secretary resigns

28th June 2021

Published on ICES website: After 10 years of service, Anne Christine Brusendorff, ICES General Secretary, has informed ICES Bureau of her decision to resign from her position, effective 31 December 2021.

During the past decade of substantive change for ICES, as well as global challenges which we have been called upon to respond to, Anne Christine has brought remarkable and effective leadership and we are grateful for the energy and vision she has brought to the strategic and operational challenges. Under her guidance, ICES has advanced as a network, further developed as a respected and relevant international organization, and fostered a professional, efficient, and effective Secretariat.

We are now in the process of recruiting a new General Secretary. More information about the recruitment, and a vacancy announcement will be made available in the coming months.

<https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/GenSec.aspx>

ICES is recruiting Job advert as Advisory Programme Supporting Officer

Deadline 8th July 2021

https://www.ices.dk/about-ICES/Jobs-in-ICES/Pages/202103_Supporting_Officer.aspx

WKCLIMAD - Workshop on pathways to climate-aware advice: June-September -October 2021

This is all about finding out how the short-, medium-, and long-term influences of climate change on aquaculture, fisheries, and ecosystems can be accounted for in ICES Advice. They held a first meeting on 21st June 2021 and will continue meetings in September and October 2021. Probably a very popular Workshop with lots of interest. Read here and see the Terms of Reference:

<https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WKCLIMAD.aspx>

ICES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 6th -10th September 2021

Virtual conference: because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, ASC 2021 is organised as a virtual conference.

The conference takes place 6th-10th September 2021 and consists 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)

ICES advice on WKTRADE – mobile bottom fishing disturbance

24th June 2021

This is about an EU request on how management scenarios to reduce mobile bottom fishing disturbance on seafloor habitats affect fisheries landing and value. It has been mentioned several times by DG MARE and DG ENV in connection with various things, such as evaluation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, reaching Good Environmental Status in relation to the Descriptor 6: Sea-floor integrity is at a level that ensures that the structure and functions of the ecosystems are safeguarded and benthic ecosystems, in particular, are not adversely affected.

Can seafloor integrity be maintained while bottom trawling continues to take place? ICES advice is here:

[Reducing the impact of mobile bottom-contacting fishing gears on seafloor habitats \(ices.dk\)](https://www.ices.dk)

ICES explores five management scenarios that could be used to reduce pressure and impact on the seabed caused by bottom trawling.

While fishing with mobile bottom contacting gear is the main physical pressure exerted on the seafloor across the EU, management measures and fisheries actions can reduce the impacts of mobile bottom contacting gears on seafloor habitats. "Because bottom-contact fishing provides by far the major source of physical disturbance to the seabed around Europe, it affects many seabed habitats and is therefore a major pressure for which management options need to be developed if we want to improve the health of seafloor ecosystems" says David Connor, Policy Officer, EU Directorate-General for the Environment.

The information from ICES is here:

<https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/seaflooradvice.aspx>

DTU Aqua on fish welfare

14th June 2021

Going together to look at welfare of fish - how the billions of fish die in connection with trawling towards developing more human fishing methods. This includes cooperation with the Danish Pelagic PO and Animal Protection Denmark. In Danish:

https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2021/06/fiskeri-handler-ogsaa-om-dyrevelfaerd?utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

The Danish Pelagic PO also reports on this: do fish suffer from the trawl into the hull?

14th June 2021

<https://www.dppo.dk/2021/06/14/nyt-samarbejde-imellem-fiskere-og-dyrenes-beskyttelse-undersoeger-dyrevelfaerd-i-fiskeriet/>

DTU Aqua on blue is the new black in the green revolution – using blue biomass

15th June 2021

Making use of the blue biomass as food and to protect the environment. This is a report done by DTU Aqua, Aarhus University and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. Eating our way through crustaceans, invasive species, marine plants and so on can help towards this. The news and the report are in Danish, but you can find them here:

https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2021/06/vidensyntese-om-blaa-biomasse?utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=

Other meetings and news of activities

Joint workshop on bird migration in the OSPAR and HELCOM region: 8th - 9th September 2021

The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN, AS Vilm) is pleased to invite to a joint workshop on bird migration in the OSPAR and HELCOM region. It will serve as kick-off event for the envisaged ICES/OSPAR/HELCOM sub-group on bird migration under JWG Bird, aiming at bringing together expertise on bird migration, collating data on migratory routes and discussing methodologies to produce high quality maps of bird migration routes across the North-East Atlantic and Baltic Sea. Particular focus during the workshop will be put on drafting of a workplan for the group to guide further work.

[OSPAR_HELCOMsave-the-date_Bird-Migration-Workshop_8_9_092021.pdf.aspx](https://www.ospar.org/OSPAR-HELCOMsave-the-date-Bird-Migration-Workshop-8-9-092021.pdf.aspx) (bsac.dk)

Reducing bycatch: The CiBBRiNNA project >>>> harbour porpoise and PAL

This project is about coordinated development and implementation of best practices in bycatch reduction in the North Atlantic region. They have a project meeting on 9th September 2021:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/CIBBRiNa-Project-meeting>

An online seminar for launching the Baltic and North Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda – BANOS SRIA 2021 on 22nd June 2021.

BANOS SRIA replaces BONUS and covers Baltic and North Sea. All parts of the BANOS SRIA (i.e. policy landscape, strategic objectives, implementation plan and impact enablers) have been prepared with the key aim of the future BANOS Programme in mind, as well as the forthcoming Partnership Candidate on Sustainable Climate Neutral and Productive Blue Economy under the new Horizon Europe Framework Programme, and it is to satisfy BANOS region's knowledge needs for the coming decade and beyond. The development of the BANOS SRIA is a process which means that it is also designed to be updated regularly to keep it responding to the realities we operate in. The BANOS SRIA will be available online from the launch onwards at: www.banoscsa.org/SRIA2021

Stockholm University is planning a Baltic Sea Day 2021 7th October 2021

At Stockholm University, marine research is performed by almost 300 researchers across nine different departments. To promote and strengthen the Baltic Sea research at the university, they will hold a conference "Baltic Sea Day". Save the date, more info to come!

HELCOM

HELCOM on Commercial Fish 28th -29th September 2021

HELCOM will hold a Workshop on Status Assessment of Commercial Fish, **ComFish 1-2021**, online **10.00 (EEST) - 17.00 (EEST)** each day. It will aim to bring together regional experts on the topic and synthesise information into a solid plan ahead, the ultimate goal of the process being an improved and functional assessment of commercial fish for the Third Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III). The Workshop will be chaired by Sweden. In addition to nominations from HELCOM Contracting Parties the Secretariat will contact ICES to directly invite participation in the Workshop and preparatory work and thereby ensure that relevant experts and knowledge are incorporated. Relevant documents for this Workshop will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal for HELCOM ComFish WS 1-2021. Please note that you need to be a registered user to access the restricted Workshop documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the HELCOM website (<https://helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/meetings/meeting-portal-instructions/>). Participants of the Workshop are requested to **register** by **23 September 2021** with answering the Participation Survey. The Workshop will be held via Zoom, Meeting link and instructions will be sent to the **registered participants only**.

The participants are invited to submit any relevant information document to the Workshop in electronic form via e-mail to the Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) by **20 September 2021**. The Secretariat has prepared a document template which is available on the Meeting Site (section "Related information") and would like to encourage the participants to use the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

The Workshop on the HELCOM Integrated biodiversity assessment tool (BEAT), BEAT 1-2021, will be held online on 26th August 2021. The Workshop will start at **10.00 (EEST)** and end by **17.00 (EEST)**.

The Workshop will aim to bring together relevant experts to get a deeper understanding of the BEAT tool, the ultimate goal being an improved and functional integrated biodiversity assessment for the Third Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) and beyond. This event will be a joint Workshop with HELCOM experts organized by the HELCOM BLUES and Baltic Data Flow projects.

Participants of the Workshop are requested to **register** by **23 August 2021** with answering the [Participation Survey](#). The Workshop will be held via Zoom, Meeting link and instructions will be sent to the **registered participants only**.

For even more HELCOM: www.helcom.fi

Other information/reading, including from BSAC members

CCB: Most of Europe's river basins will still be unhealthy by 2027

11th June 2021

11 out of 13 river basins studied in various EU countries will still be unhealthy by 2027, new research reveals. The Baltic Sea Region isn't an exception, especially with the Odra river [1]. Those countries will miss the legally binding EU target to return Europe's dirty freshwaters to health by then.

CCB contributed to the report published by WWF and the [Living Rivers Europe](#) Coalition that finds that only two out of the 13 analysed river basins – both in Finland – might see good health by 2027. Most of the river basins suffer from a lack of national budget allocated to water management, insufficient integration of water protection into other policies – in particular energy, agriculture and infrastructure – and the multiple misuse of derogations – all issues that were already flagged in the 2019 [Fitness Check conclusions](#) of the Water Framework Directive's (WFD) evaluation. Two Baltic Member States in the study are Finland (Kemijoki and Vuoksi) and Germany (Elbe and Rhine). The European Anglers Alliance on rivers also informed on this, 10th June 2021.

News here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/15910/most-of-europe-s-river-basins-will-still-be-unhealthy-by-2027-new-report.html>

Report here:

[file:///C:/Users/BSAC/Dropbox/My%20PC%20\(DESKTOP-IKF5VKO\)/Downloads/lre_the_final_sprint_for_rivers_full_report_june_2021.pdf](file:///C:/Users/BSAC/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(DESKTOP-IKF5VKO)/Downloads/lre_the_final_sprint_for_rivers_full_report_june_2021.pdf)

CCB: Restoring Baltic Sea can't be delayed for another decade – political ambition must be raised by Baltic countries

7th June 2021

This year marks a milestone for the protection of the Baltic Sea. The updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) – which will be adopted in October 2021 – is HELCOM's strategic programme of measures and a key tool for restoring the Baltic Sea by 2030. However, Baltic countries at the HELCOM Heads of Delegation meeting last week showed a lack of bold commitment and high ambitions. Coalition Clean Baltic and WWF are calling for concrete political targets to reach a good environmental status in the Baltic Sea. Investing in nature is a prerequisite to supporting economic activities which depend on the sea's natural resources while building resilience of vulnerable coastal communities.

-Coalition Clean Baltic and WWF have been active in the update process and presented a joint Shadow Plan with recommended actions across not only the main themes addressed by the current Action Plan (biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, sea-based activities), but also emerging issues such as climate change, underwater noise and seabed disturbance.

Danish fisheries sector working together to get us to eat more fish

10th June 2021

It's going to be called the Danish Seafood Council and it's going to be working on selling more Danish fish and fish products in Denmark and abroad. Also, in the shadow of Brexit, they'll be working on finding new export markets. They've just held their founding meeting - the catch sector, fish retailers, importers+exporters and aquaculture. See here in Danish:

https://fiskerforum.dk/fiskebranchen-kendt-for-minna-og-gunnar-reklamerne-genopstaar/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_nyhedsopdatering_ugetlig&utm_term=2021-06-11

Danish Fishermen PO also report on this in their newspaper Fishing News 19th June 2021. Several Danish fisheries and trading organisations involved, as well as aquaculture.

Danish Fishing News on dumping of mud into the Sound - The new island will chase the fishermen away

19th June 2021

We already wrote about the creation of the new island Lynetteholm in Copenhagen and which means to start with digging up 2.5 million cubic metres of mud and sediment from the seabed and moving it to Køge Bugt – on the way into the Baltic. Fishing News reports that local fishermen are concerned about what effect all this dumped material (about 200.000 cubic metres are reported to be polluted).

EUROFISH Magazine latest edition

Lithuania - coastal fisheries switch to more sustainable gear, quota swaps offer some cod fishers relief, fisheries monitoring with AI

Environment and ghost nets – the invisible danger at sea

Proper on-board handling of fish – insulated containers with lids

<http://www.eurofishmagazine.com/magazine-issues/current-issue>

European Anglers Alliance ask what the European Parliament's Resolution on biodiversity means for anglers - what does the strict protection mean for recreational angling?

25th June 2021

They give the background to the Biodiversity Strategy and what things of relevance to the EEA are addressed in the EP's Resolution. They look at the targets of 30% protection and the 10% strict protection: Who can access the strictly protected areas and what does the resolution say about that? Whilst the EAA welcomes protection targets, they are in favour of recreational angling access of in both protected and strictly protected areas as long as it does not go against the conservation objectives. Read the news here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/15939/european-parliament-finally-adopts-its-report-on-biodiversity-what-s-in-it-for-recreational-anglers.html>

And for the record, the BSAC wrote to DG Environment about this designation of areas and strict protection:

http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/61c3ad28-8e13-4717-9800-23a7f5d0d60d/BSACChairtoDGENV_MEG24032021_21_22_04.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations – deal with the cormorants, quicker

11th June 2021

Writes about complaints from fisheries organisations on how long it takes to process applications for measures to deal cormorants. Latest decisions on emergency measures have taken 8-10 months. In contrast, processing time in Denmark is a week, and in Sweden it's two weeks to three months. Report in Swedish here:

<https://ahven.net/sv/pressmeddelande/2021/06/11/klagomal-om-langa-behandlingstider-for-skarvatgarder-har-inlamnats-till-justitiekanslern/>

The Fisheries Secretariat

Mixed box in ICES advice on Baltic fishing opportunities for 2022

18th June 2021

The International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has released the advice for fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for next year. There is no sign of recovery for depleted populations, such as eastern Baltic cod and western spring spawning herring. Yet again, zero catch is advised for both stocks. A substantial decline in central Baltic herring has resulted in advice to cut the quota. Some stocks are doing better, including the reassessed herring populations in the Bothnian Sea, herring in the Gulf of Riga, sprat and most flatfish populations.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/06/18/mixed-bag-in-ices-advice-on-baltic-fishing-opportunities-for-2022/>

The Fisheries Secretariat

Report: Fisheries closures fail to protect critically endangered eel

16th June 2021

In its report, FishSec has assessed whether the current national eel fishing closures – for the 2020/2021 fishing season – complied with the legal requirements, as well as the intent to protect eel migration. They found that while the majority of the coastal EU Member States are in compliance with the legal requirements of closing their eel fisheries for three consecutive months, only a few countries fulfil the intent to protect the mature silver eels that are on their way to the Sargasso Sea to reproduce.

The closures were intended to protect eels during their most vulnerable life stages by reducing the fishing effort during migration, but have not stopped several countries from actually increasing their catches since they were first implemented in 2018, says Elena Tamarit Castro, co-author of the report. In many countries there is little or no overlap with the main migration period, and the targeting of mature individuals on their way to the spawning grounds after spending 10–20 years in European waters continues.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/06/16/closures-fail-to-protect-silver-eel-migration/>

The Fisheries Secretariat

Great visual tool for eel shown at final SUDOANG event

1st June 2021

Over the last couple of days, the final event of the SUDOANG project was held online. The project set out to investigate why the European eel is not recovering, despite the agreed EU regulation (1100/2007) having been implemented for more than 10 years, and what improvements are needed to help save the eel. It has drawn on work in earlier projects on eel, beginning with INDICANG in 2005.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/06/01/great-visual-tool-for-eel-shown-at-final-sudoang-event/>

The Fisheries Secretariat

29th June 2021

One-third of global high seas fishing done by only 100 companies

Seafood companies rarely disclose what or where they are fishing. To provide an overview of the fishing industry in the high seas—the area beyond national jurisdiction—researchers linked fishing activity in the high seas to vessel owners and corporate actors. They identified 1,120 corporate actors for 2,482 vessels (~2/3 of high seas fishing vessels and effort in 2018) and found that the top 100 corporate actors account for 36% of all high seas fishing effort. The results provide a unique lens through which to view accountability for the use and protection of marine biodiversity, according to a new study published in One Earth.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/06/29/one-third-of-global-high-seas-fishing-done-by-only-100-companies/>

The German fisheries newsletter fischerblatt latest

Their latest edition from May 2021, received in June, starts with a press release on the climate friendly benefits of eating fish. This is part of overall political considerations to do with climate, population growth, nutrition and so on. Fischerblatt also writes about the latest STECF report monitoring the performance of the CFP fisheries and highlights some of the trends for biomass, fishing pressure, recruitment and number of stocks outside safe biological limits. It also has an article on the Netflix docufilm Seaspiracy and reports on a fact check of some of the claims and statements made in the film. It's all in Gemran. Contact: Info@deutscher-fischerei-verband.de

Marine Ingredients on fishing herring and sprat can increase cod stocks

22nd June 2021

They report on the earlier mentioned article about harvesting forage fish. MID comments that the research provides a scientific basis for not only to be able to increase catches, but also to help the cod stocks and restore balance in the Baltic.

<https://maring.org/news-events/fiskeri-paa-sild-og-brisling-kan-oege-torskebestandene-i-oestersoeen/>

MSC certification

Poland flatfish trawl and gillnet

1st June 2021

Global Trust Certification announced the next step of the assessment of the Polish flatfish fishery: the publication of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) for the MSC assessment. The report of the above fishery was available for comment by eligible stakeholders for a period of 30 days. The Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) are available on the MSC website at the following address:

https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/poland-flatfish-trawl-and-gillnet/@_@assessments

Following receipt of comments from stakeholders, Global Trust will consider all available information before deciding whether the fishery should be awarded certification.

Joint NGO recommendations on Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2022

18th June 2021

They urge the European Commission to propose, and fisheries ministers to agree on, fishing opportunities in accordance with the following recommendations:

- Set TACs not exceeding scientifically advised levels based on the MSY Approach for all stocks for which MSY-based reference points are available;
- Where MSY-based reference points are not available, set TACs not exceeding the Precautionary Approach catch limits advised by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES);
- Set TACs not exceeding the FMSY point value specified in the Baltic Sea Multi-Annual Plan (MAP).

<https://ccb.se/2021/06/joint-ngo-recommendations-on-baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-for-2022/>

Ray Hilborn: MPAs aren't the answer to ocean biodiversity, sustainability efforts

1st June 2021

He refers to the global movement to create more MPAs. In his view, the 30x30 movement is not enough, because we need to protect the biodiversity of all EEZs. His wish is to set explicit targets, and find the best tools to reach them. This would include modifying gear, and how fishing takes place. Read in full:

https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/ray-hilborn-mpa-s-aren-t-the-answer-to-ocean-biodiversity-sustainability?utm_source=marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=newsletter&mkt_tok=NzU2LUZXSi0wNjEAAAF9Z_wYP47KH91qbawvaqclAm4bl-xLA3fOKUKOfU9VBYDD9zQvOUrK9aYVNBTHg-HNoBg1XBOgA0jDi0hkOrFb0fjydpn5FmopgqXIGSPVXKy

You want more on MPAs and bottom trawling?

1st June 2021

The Deutsche Allianz Meeresforschung (DAM) - German Alliance for Marine Research has informed about a two week trip to look at MPAs in the Femern Belt and Oderbank. Why? To check out the condition of the seabed. It's part of another DAM mission to look at the impact of bottom trawling on MPAs in the North and Baltic Sea. The news and all the contact people are here:

Full article in English here:

<https://www.allianz-meeresforschung.de/en/news/bottom-trawling-in-marine-protected-areas-of-the-baltic-sea/>

And on the bottom trawling:

<https://www.allianz-meeresforschung.de/en/dam-pilotmissionen/>

In German:

<https://www.eucc-d.de/meldung-detail/items/grundschleppnetz-fischerei-in-meeresschutzgebieten-der-ostsee.html>

Baltic Sea Centre Baltic Eye on the advised increased for the herring TAC in Gulf of Bothnia – it says it's a major risk-taking

3rd June 2021

<https://balticeye.org/en/fisheries/ices-tac-advice-for-2022/>