

Yes, we're back after the summer with some news – trying to keep it short and simple. Please let us have any news before end of October 2021 if you want it to be included in the next edition.

## **BSAC news and meetings**

### **From the Secretariat**

#### **Update EU funding for 2021-2022**

The current BSAC year started 1<sup>st</sup> April. Due to the delays in adopting the new European Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the BSAC only received its funding from the Commission in August. This was a long wait, the funding. For **future funding for Advisory Councils**, the Commission is evaluating the amounts it pays to the ACs and intends to do this as a lump sum from next time round, and it won't be the same flat rate for all ACs. Watch this space .....

#### **The Secretariat followed a few meetings in August**

##### **Breakfast Baltic style - BALTIC SEA BREAKFAST from the Baltic Sea Centre (Stockholm University)**

They hold breakfast seminars to present latest knowledge on central environment related questions for the Baltic. They're aimed at people working for a sustainable development in the Baltic - in particular to those already engaged in Baltic issues.

###### **1. A short seminar on coastal habitats**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

##### **Healthy ecosystems are crucial to mitigate climate change**

The coastal zones are among the most effective areas on Earth at storing carbon from the atmosphere. Treated right, these ecosystems are important cornerstones in climate change mitigation, but if degraded, they release large amounts of greenhouse gases, re-enforcing global warming. What is the situation for these ecosystems in the Baltic Sea? Are they sinks or sources of carbon? And how well is this so-called blue carbon implemented in climate mitigation policies? If you want to know more, read our short report and see the policy brief:

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

[https://www.su.se/polopoly\\_fs/1.567417.1629364115!/menu/standard/file/PBbluecarbon.pdf](https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.567417.1629364115!/menu/standard/file/PBbluecarbon.pdf)

###### **2. Environmental history of the Baltic - with the example of herring from the archipelago (in Swedish)**

15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Managing the Baltic and fisheries is a challenge. Through long-term effort, some things in the Baltic improve, whilst other things get worse. The history of the Baltic environment and maritime activities has not been studied so much, in contrast to land-based ones. We need better knowledge of the environmental history of the Baltic.

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

###### **3. And education, education, education: Baltic Sea Literacy - get 'em while they're young**

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

##### **Supporting Ocean Literacy in the Baltic-EU4 Ocean "Let's make the Baltic Sea Blue"**

The EU4Ocean Coalition organised its second Sea Basin Event in the **Baltic Sea**. It addressed all relevant Baltic Ocean communities, including schools and pupils, teachers and marine science educators, stakeholders from marine related sectors, NGOs and conservationists, youth, policymakers and government representatives, public institutions, researchers and academia, entrepreneurs, other ocean professionals as well as citizens interested in the Baltic marine environment. The Event had an extra focus on Baltic Youth as well as Baltic Blue Schools. Some good examples of what's going on in the Baltic, for example Finland:

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

EU site here:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/6353>

### **Then getting down to the work of the BSAC**

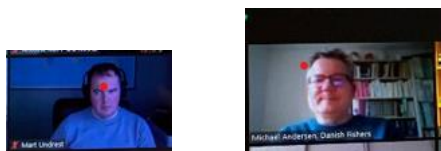
Members look anxiously towards the October Fisheries Council and what the decisions on TACs and quotas will mean for the Baltic fisheries - commercial and recreational, as well as from environmental viewpoint. The BSAC is having to deliver its recommendations in two stages because the ICES advice for some of the stocks has been delayed this year. It's complicated stuff; their advice for the western Baltic cod and the salmon stocks came late this year. The BSAC is in the process of finalising its recommendations.

### **The General Assembly, ExCom and Joint Working Group on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 in Copenhagen**

This was the first meeting since COVID forced the BSAC into lockdown March 2020.

It was a very special meeting because:

### **It was time to say goodbye from them:**



Left to right: Our very own M and M: Mart Undrest Chair of the Pelagic WG, Michael Andersen Chair of the Demersal WG and further right Steve Karnicki Honorary Chair - all stepping down after a good many years working hard for the BSAC. Mart and Michael continue as members of the BSAC. Steve will be following work as observer.

**And it's hello from them:**



Left to right: Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, elected ExCom Chair, Jarek Zielinski Chair of the Pelagic Working Group, Teija Aho Chair of the Demersal Working Group, Nils Höglund Chair of the EBM Working Group, and Ingemar Berglund, Honorary Chair. Esben is well-known to the BSAC, re-elected Chair and is from the Danish Pelagic PO. Jarek is from the Polish organisation Fish Producers Organisation Bałtyk. Teija is from the Swedish Fishermen PO. Nils Höglund from Coalition Clean Baltic. The new Honorary Chair Ingemar Berglund has had a long and successful career in Sweden as scientist, researcher, academic and senior administrator.

The General Assembly meeting was well attended by over 30 in-person and over 10 participants who joined remotely. This hybrid format is something to develop and get used to.

**Steve Karnicki, BSAC Honorary Chair**, chaired the BSAC **General Assembly** for the last time after being Honorary Chair of the BSAC since 2008. He welcomed Rasmus Prehn, the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Charlina Vitcheva, Director General, DG Mare. This meeting was a sad farewell to Steve who stepped down. The new Honorary Chair is Ingemar Berglund, who has a long and successful career in fisheries - as researcher, academic and administrator. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen was elected for a new term of office. The Executive Committee was elected for its next term of office. The **ExCom meeting** elected working group chairs. Election of the Vice Chair of the BSAC will be later in the year. Members also hear about a new and very interesting international project called SEAwise to deal with ecosystem based fisheries management: BSAC members are invited to take part in this. The **Working group** meeting discussed the advice from ICES for western Baltic cod and for Baltic salmon, which had been delayed until September 2021. The BSAC will send a position paper to the Commission. Keep an out for them here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations>

Meeting reports are fast in the making and will be available here:

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

The ExCom Chair has sent a lovely thank you letter to the Danish Minister for visiting the BSAC. Please find it here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-General-Assembly-and-Executive-Committee/ExComChairThankyouDKMinister220921mtg21\\_22\\_20.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-General-Assembly-and-Executive-Committee/ExComChairThankyouDKMinister220921mtg21_22_20.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)



**In full flow at the General Assembly:**

Danish Minister Rasmus Prehn

Director General Charlina Vitcheva

What the fisheries and stocks situation is for the Baltic:

**The BSAC reply to the Commission's Communication on fisheries 2022 – finalised**

The BSAC's reply is on the website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-reply-to-Commission-consultation-on-fishing-o>

**The BSAC recommendations on fisheries for 2022**

Here on the website – for all stocks except the western cod and the salmon:

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

**The BSAC provided extra material on management of Baltic sprat:**

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-on-advice-for-sprat>

**BSAC comments on functioning of the Advisory Councils - Commission Delegated Act amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2015/242 - finalised**

The Commission proposes to amend its Regulation on the Advisory Councils so as to help them work more effectively. The BSAC has commented and the Commission has replied to the BSAC comments –find both letters here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-comments-on-the-Commission-s-proposal-to-amen>

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

### **Latvia took over the Presidency on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and met the BSAC Management Team on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

The Latvian Director of Fisheries and Head of Fisheries Strategy Division met with the Management Team on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The BSAC discussed how to improve collaboration with BALTFISH. BSAC report here:

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

### **BALTFISH Forum meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Normunds Riekstins from the BALTFISH Presidency** opened and chaired the first meeting under the Latvian BALTFISH Presidency. Representing the BSAC was Esben Sverdrup-Jensen and the BSAC Secretariat. The Forum meeting was well attended by several Baltic Member States, HELCOM as well as stakeholders from the fisheries and anglers and environmental NGOs. **The Chair** underlined that under the Latvian Presidency BALTFISH will continue to deal with the issues of great importance for the Baltic. The ambition is to improve the situation in the Baltic, both for the fish and fishermen, by protecting biological diversity, while keeping fishermen alive. The meeting discussed the Commission's proposal for fishing opportunities for 2022 for the Baltic Sea. The Presidency gave an update on Second Joint Recommendation on the protection of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise, Joint Recommendation on measures to increase the selectivity of flatfish trawls for cod avoidance and Joint Recommendation on exempting plaice from the landing obligation. Report here:

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

### **BALTFISH draft Joint Recommendation on Technical measures for Baltic Demersal Trawl fishery – consulting the BSAC**

BALTFISH consulted the BSAC on its draft Joint Recommendation. The deadline to BALTFISH was 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. They want to submit it to the Commission before the October Council.

But this is complex stuff, it's very technical and the BSAC has asked for and been invited to a technical meeting **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. See the documents here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-BALTFISH-Technical-meeting-on-technical-measu>

## **Commission news and meetings**

### **The Commission published first report on the implementation of the Technical Measures Regulation 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

[https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/sustainable-fisheries-commission-publishes-first-report-implementation-technical-measures\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/sustainable-fisheries-commission-publishes-first-report-implementation-technical-measures_en)

The report shows that the regulation provides the framework needed for the full implementation of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and contributes to the EU environmental legislation, but has also identified some shortcomings. It gives an insight into state of play and effectiveness of the measures currently in place, and the positive contribution of the regionalised approach, which allows to adjust the relevant measures to the specific regional context. Some Member States have started to develop additional fisheries measures to protect sensitive species and habitats at both national and regional levels. The report also found that more action and decisive steps are needed if the goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 are to be met.

The Commission will complement the current report with an "Action Plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems", planned for spring 2022. This will help to improve implementation of the CFP and fully exploit the links between fisheries and environmental policies.

Find it here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:583:FIN>

### **The Commission published its fishing opportunities for 2022 – this is for the Baltic 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

The Commission proposes to increase fishing opportunities for herring in the Gulf of Riga, maintain current levels for sprat, plaice and by-catches of eastern cod. It proposes to decrease fishing opportunities for the remaining stocks, in order to improve sustainability of those stocks and help other stocks such as cod and

herring recover. **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, said: *“The poor environmental status of the Baltic Sea is heavily affecting our local fishermen and women, who rely on healthy fish stocks for their livelihoods. This is why the Commission is doing its utmost to restore those stocks, and today's proposal is a reflection of that ambition. However, the state of the Baltic Sea is not only related to fishing, so everyone must do their part to build the long-term sustainability of this precious sea basin.”*

In all languages:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:491:FIN>

Press release:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_4202](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4202)

Q&A:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA\\_21\\_4222](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_21_4222)

### **The EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive – EU Consultation**

The European Commission is running a public consultation to review the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. It will review achievements and shortcomings of the Directive, explore options for improvement and propose possible amendments. It runs until 21 October 2021. [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#)  
Some background: The Marine Strategy Framework Directive from 2008 (MSFD)<sup>1</sup> is the EU's main tool to protect the marine environment. It focuses on the cumulative impacts of human activities in one strategic framework. The overarching goal is Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020. It requires Member States to develop coordinated marine strategies in order to achieve clean seas and healthy marine stocks. Member States have to assess their marine waters, determine GES, establish monitoring programmes, and develop programmes of measures to achieve/maintain GES, including spatial protection measures. They have to notify the Commission of their work, and the Commission has to produce progress reports. There are 6-yearly cycles of reporting and review. The BSAC is finalising its paper to the Commission as a BSAC contribution. You'll be able to find it here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations>

This is only the start of the process and there will be many opportunities to contribute to this review.

### **That work to develop a Product Environmental Footprint for marine fish products – or how do you describe a sustainable fishery?**

This is to cover unprocessed marine wild fish and unprocessed farmed wild fish. Is this a theoretical exercise, as one outsider has described it? Or does it have practical and financial implications for the fisheries sector? How does it fit into or alongside other labelling schemes such as MSC?

The deadline to submit comments for the First Public Consultation of the Marine Fish PEF CR has been extended to **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. The Secretariat asked for comments. BSAC General Assembly member Marine Ingredients has informed that they take this very seriously. Marine Ingredients are looking at how to calculate the PEF of fish meal and fishoil e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>/kg fish meal and fish oil. Customers are starting to ask for this sort of information. It's being done as a consultation. <https://www.marinefishpefcr.eu/copy-of-resources>

### **The EU Beach clean up campaign**

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

This has been running from 2017. It's about being together to protect marine life  
**#EUBeachCleanup campaign - from a drop in the ocean to a wave of change**

Read the news here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/together-protect-marine-life-2021-09-17\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/together-protect-marine-life-2021-09-17_en)

### **EUMOFA on fishmeal and fishoil – report September 2021**

The 27-page report gives an overview of the fishmeal and fish oil sectors derived from forage fisheries in the European Union (EU). It looks at how the products are used, EU landings, EU production, imports and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008L0056>

exports. The production of fishmeal and fishoil is projected to grow moderately the coming years, due to better utilisation of by-products from the fish processing industry, and development of other raw material sources like krill, algae, and insects.

[d3c6e416-6b50-c68b-af61-799022da2404 \(eumofa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eumofa/eumofa/publication-detail/-/publication/d3c6e416-6b50-c68b-af61-799022da2404/language-en)

### **Synthesis of the Landing Obligation measures and discard rates**

#### **EU publications**

18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

The landing obligation came into force 2015, phased in implementation completed 2019. Read the news here.

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/89868cc6-015f-11ec-8f47-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Read the report Synthesis of the landing obligation measures and discard rates.

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/publications/synthesis-landing-obligation-measures-and-discard-rates\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/publications/synthesis-landing-obligation-measures-and-discard-rates_en)

it's from June this year. Note that the details from the Commission include: Stakeholder interviews and questionnaires conducted in this study showed that the process for approving newly developed gear is long and severely delayed implementation of these measures." BSAC has not discussed this report. This statement has been made many times by BSAC members.

### **Maritime Affairs and Fisheries latest Newsletter 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

A juicy newsletter with quite a bit of the above stuff.

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/newsletter-archives/34712>

### **And check this out: Euronews Ocean SO3E10: Towards a sustainable Baltic Sea**

Read the news and watch the short film about cleaning up the Baltic Sea

[https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/euronews-ocean-s03e10-towards-sustainable-baltic-sea-2021-09-29\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/euronews-ocean-s03e10-towards-sustainable-baltic-sea-2021-09-29_en)

### **Farm to Fork 2021 conference 14 and 15 October 2021**

This year, the event will focus on the progress made on the initiatives foreseen in the [Farm to Fork Strategy's](#) action plan, support the EU efforts to achieve a global transition to sustainable food systems and put emphasis on research and innovation as transition enablers (#HorizonEU - #Food2030EU - #Bluefarming). It will be hosted by European Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, Ms. Stella Kyriakides, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski and the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Ms. Mariya Gabriel. European Commission Executive Vice-President, Frans Timmermans will open the Conference. The registration to this digital conference is now open. [Register now!](#)

By registering to the conference, you will be able to follow the agenda sessions, visit the *Farm to Fork* virtual exhibition room and send in your questions to speakers and express your views during the discussions on the way forward, e.g., *what are the most important R&I priorities for the next years of Horizon Europe likely to have high impact on Farm to Fork Strategy targets and objectives by 2030?*

Please note that due to the limited capacity of the online platform, we kindly ask you **to respect the limit of 2 registered participants per organisation**. The event can also be followed via **webstreaming**, without the opportunity for non-registered participants to interact with speakers. The relevant webstreaming links will become available shortly on the [European Commission's Event website](#). Interpretation is foreseen during the conference in 6 languages (FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-SI).

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the *Farm to Fork* conference!

BSAC members, take note!



### **Catch the latest edition of the FARNET newsletter September 2021**

They just sent it by e mail, but it hasn't come on their website yet:

There's stuff about pesca-tourism and preparing for the international year of artisanal fisheries 2022:

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/news-events/news/farnet\\_en](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/news-events/news/farnet_en)

### **European Parliament news and meetings**

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

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/239675/Trawler%20September%202021.pdf>

It includes that report on the landing obligation (28<sup>th</sup> August 2021): First study of implementation and impact on discards.. Overall, it concludes that control and enforcement of the landing obligation remain challenging, Member States have not adopted necessary control measures and that significant undocumented discarding of catches occur. A key aspect of the study concerns the effectiveness and efficiency of traditional vs modern control tools to monitor the landing obligation. The study concludes that remote electronic monitoring (REM) tools are the most effective and cost-efficient means (although some stakeholders raised issues such as privacy and costs). REM has been trialled by various Member States, but not been rolled out on a large scale. In its proposal for a revised fisheries control system (COM/2018/368 final), currently negotiated with Council and Parliament, the Commission supports the use of such modern control tools. The study also points to important shortcomings of traditional control tools (at sea inspections and dockside/auction inspections of the landings/logbooks), as they only provide a snapshot of compliance at the time of monitoring. The study also concludes that discard rates do not yet show clear trends or patterns as a result of the landing obligation. There is a lack of evidence of changes in discarding practice, and that discarding is still taking place. Stakeholders identified a number of possible explanations, including complex legislation and regulation and the substantial adaptation to be undertaken on board vessels. The study provides suggestions on how to alleviate these challenges through improved logbooks and trainings. While stakeholders have already worked on this during the transition phase, further room for improvement remains, according to the study.

The study is also useful for all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the landing obligation, such as the Member States and industry, as it shows a comprehensive analysis of the state of play and provides recommendations for improvement. More information at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/89868cc6-015f-11ec-8f47-01aa75ed71a1>

**The next meeting of the PECH Committee are on:**

11 October 2021, 16:45 - 19:15

27 October 2021, 13:45 - 15:45

28 October 2021, 09:00 - 12:00 & 13:45 - 15:45

### **News from other ACs**

**The Mediterranean AC with a meeting on Small-SCALE FISHERS' FORUM participatory management approaches 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

This event is here:

<http://en.med-ac.eu/events.php?id=192>

All draft agendas are available, and you can register for each event on the website: <http://en.med-ac.eu/events.php>

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

Coming meetings with the Advisory Councils

**European Fisheries Control Agency Advisory Board meeting 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**



The invitation is here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-meeting-\(6\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-meeting-(6))

The ExCom Chair will take part.

### **Administrative Board meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

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

This gives participants the chance to meet the new Executive Director of EFCA – Susan Steele.

## **ICES and science**

### **ICES ANNUAL REPORT, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Aquaculture, Big Data, mixed fisheries, global partnerships, and the impacts of COVID-19 all receive attention in our review of the organization's activities for 2020. ICES President, Fritz Köster, extended his support and gratitude to all members of the community for maintaining their level of commitment to our scientific work. "It is a challenging and difficult situation for all of us, with severe impact on all citizens and society and not least our organization. It is good to see how quickly we in ICES were able to adapt by changing working procedures, most importantly a rapid change from physical expert group meetings to online activity. This ensures that important work is organized and accomplished despite the present restrictions".

[A year in review \(ices.dk\)](#)

### **ICES Report on stakeholder engagement, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

ICES published the report on the ICES Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

It covers a broad range of issues including the rationale and objectives for engagement; the history of engagement in ICES; who is a stakeholder; the roles and power dynamics in ICES; gaps, risks and opportunities; monitoring and evaluating engagement and potential ways forward.

It suggests five principles that ICES should consider when engaging with stakeholders.

1. Opportunities for stakeholder involvement are inclusive and proportional to the relevant issue.
2. Active stakeholder participation is consistent with the impartiality, independence and integrity of ICES.
3. The roles, responsibilities and expectations of participation are transparent, and participants understand and respect their roles and that of others.
4. ICES communication strategy is aligned with the engagement strategy.
5. Stakeholders' participation is assessed, the engagement process is monitored, and constant organizational learning occurs.

The report can be found here

<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/IEASG/2021/WKSHOES%20report%202021.pdf>

### **All the ICES 2021 advice for the Baltic is here:**

[LINK](#)

### **Read: Moving away from a system of beliefs to a system of acknowledged uncertain knowledge**

16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Can we quantify uncertainty in ocean ecosystem models and scenarios to help make these tools more useful to decision-makers? With OSMOSE, Yunne Shin leads the way.

[Moving away from a system of beliefs to a system of acknowledged uncertain knowledge \(ices.dk\)](#)

### **Read: Estimating discard survival**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

This report gives state-of-the-art review of the current best practice for methods to estimate discard survival.

<https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/CRR351.aspx>

### **New face to ICES: Rachel Kouassi-Zessia new Advisory Programme Supporting Officer**

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Rachel replaces Helle Gjeding Jørgensen who retired in September

Email: [rachel.kouassi.zessia@ices.dk](mailto:rachel.kouassi.zessia@ices.dk)

ICES staff list <https://www.ices.dk/about-ICES/who-we-are/Pages/Staff-list.aspx>

### **Hot off the press: Low impact fishing and organic sustainability DTU Aqua report**

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

This report updates reporting from 2014. It looks at current knowledge on the impact of Danish fisheries on the marine environment. It also assesses the environmental impact of the most important fishing gear used and where possible tries to quantify the overall environmental impact and sustainability of fishing. Since their first report in 2014 new studies have been carried out, maps have been developed and produced of the impact on the seabed and of certain gears. And there is a new section on the management tools that can be used to limit environmental impact and make fishing more sustainable. It's a long report with text, maps, tables and diagrams. It's in Danish:

<https://fiskerforum.dk/wp-content/uploads/Miljokansomhed-og-okol-ogisk-baeredygtighed-i-d-ansk-fiskeri-DTU-Aqua-rapport-nr.-392-2021.pdf>

DTU Aqua own news:

[https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2021/09/mere-baeredygtigt-fiskeri-kraever-kombinerede-indsatser?id=58037ce4-6bea-451a-b035-9886e9738cc9&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_media=mail&utm\\_campaign=](https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2021/09/mere-baeredygtigt-fiskeri-kraever-kombinerede-indsatser?id=58037ce4-6bea-451a-b035-9886e9738cc9&utm_source=newsletter&utm_media=mail&utm_campaign=)

### **Tippling point realized in cod fishery Christian Møllmann et al – or, is western Baltic cod doomed?**

12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Article in English here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-93843-z>

This does go back to July, But it's only now we can add a bit.

The article reports on a modelling approach from the catastrophe theory, and it identifies tipping points. It refers to overfishing and climate change which have impacted the western cod stock, and the fact that ICES is not including changed environmental conditions in the forecast. But is western Baltic cod on the brink of extinction?????

This scientific study sparked off press articles news features and reporting in the German newsletter Fischerblatt. (number 8/2021). Contact: [Info@deutscher-fischerei-verband.de](mailto:Info@deutscher-fischerei-verband.de)

The Thünen Institute for Baltic Sea Fisheries, with Christopher Zimmermann at the helm, reacted very quickly to these reports and took a closer look at the study. Can the western cod be saved? They state that there's nothing new here. Western cod is a long way from extinction. They go on to state that the western cod was overfished, and it's not known how long it will take to recover. The reasons behind this are complicated. There is a need to take environmental considerations and changes into account. The fact check by Thünen Institute here (no date), In German:

<https://www.thuenen.de/de/infotehk/faktencheck/ist-der-westdorsch-noch-zu-retten/>

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

#### **We put in what we remember/spot here:**

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

### **Stockholm University holds Baltic Sea Day 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

They will be highlighting Stockholm University's ongoing research from seven departments on different anthropogenic pressures in the Baltic Sea, as well as methods and techniques that can be used in assessments and management support. Real and broadcast online.

<https://www.su.se/stockholm-university-baltic-sea-centre/calendar/baltic-sea-day-2021-1.563338>

### **A German-Polish conference Marine conservation without borders – opportunities for cooperation in the southern Baltic Sea October 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 by Deutsche Umwelthilfe**

The conference deals with three main topics:

- 1) The benefits of effective marine protected areas for humans and nature
- 2) Essential functions (ecosystem services) that marine protected areas and healthy oceans provide us with
- 3) Fisheries and marine conservation

There will be talks, panel discussions and many interactive formats to enable transnational discussions among representatives from government and public authorities, fisheries, tourism, environmental associations, academia and the interested public that stimulate the development of practical solutions to existing challenges. Find the links to PL and GER here:

<https://www.duh.de/ponadgraniczna-ochrona-morz/>

[https://www.duh.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/download/Projektinformation/Naturschutz/Program\\_Zaproszenie\\_Konferencja\\_morska\\_6-8.10.21.pdf](https://www.duh.de/fileadmin/user_upload/download/Projektinformation/Naturschutz/Program_Zaproszenie_Konferencja_morska_6-8.10.21.pdf)

<https://www.duh.de/meeresschutz-ohne-grenzen/>

[https://www.duh.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/download/Projektinformation/Naturschutz/Einladung\\_Programm\\_MeeresschutzKonferenz\\_6-8.10.21.pdf](https://www.duh.de/fileadmin/user_upload/download/Projektinformation/Naturschutz/Einladung_Programm_MeeresschutzKonferenz_6-8.10.21.pdf)

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Katharina Fietz ([fietz@duh.de](mailto:fietz@duh.de)) and Katrin Quiring ([quiring@duh.de](mailto:quiring@duh.de)) by email.

### **There's the Baltic Sea Science Congress in Denmark, Aarhus 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

They will present state-of-the-art information in scientific understanding of the Baltic Sea functioning will be presented and implications for ecosystem management discussed. This is a REAL meeting only. They expect >150 taking part. Not online. The last chance to register is on Friday 1st October 2021. Check it out here:

<https://conferences.au.dk/bssc2021/> [please register here!](#)

If you have any questions or queries about the congress, write to [Balticssc2021@au.dk](mailto:Balticssc2021@au.dk)

### **Baltic Breakfast 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Combating eutrophication for a cleaner Baltic Sea**

Baltic Breakfast, jointly organised by Consulate of Sweden in Saint Petersburg and the Baltic Sea Centre, deals with eutrophication. Sergey Kondratyev, Russian Academy of Science, and Linda Kumblad, Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre, will share their knowledge.

Date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 9:00-9:45 Local time in Sweden (CEST), 10:00-10:45 Moscow time.

<https://su.powerinit.com/Modules/Campaign/Newsletter.aspx?n=16747&e=sc@bsac.dk&r=1742710&h=4E0605997F3D7AE2B24F2612F1687A5E>

### **NMTT - Nordic Marine Think Tank together with ICES on a Workshop on Climate Change 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

This one-and-a-half-day joint NMTT-ICES Workshop gives opportunity for fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders, scientists and policy makers the chance to discuss, exchange ideas and identify practical steps for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to adopt to and reduce its own contribution to climate change.

<https://www.nmtt.org/forum>

## HELCOM

### **Assessing the well-being of commercial fish: HELCOM workshop on commercial fish 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

This is all about the work by HELCOM to do its HOLAS III report (on the state of the Baltic). It's a big job. The HOLAS III report will be ready in 2023. The work has to dovetail with the EU assessment and reporting requirements under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). This workshop focused on commercial fish and the indicators + descriptors need to assess them for GES and to decide which fish/stocks to include in the HOLAS work. This surely is relevant for the BSAC. So, the BSAC Secretariat and a pelagic fisheries representative took part as observer. We also made a report. A HELCOM own report will come up on their website. Here's ours:

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

### **25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 25-2021), online, 8-10 November 2021**

Provisional agenda and annotated agenda are available on the HELCOM site. An informal session is planned for informal exchange on national experiences in MSFD implementation. Meeting to consider:

- regional coordination in relation to MSFD, specifically to the Article 8 and the update of MSFD PoMs under Article 13;
- progress on the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- scoping and planning for HOLAS III and associated processes;

LOADS more HELCOM here: [HELCOM](#)

## **Other information/reading, including from BSAC members**

### **Danish Fishermen PO and the Association for Low Impact Fishery FSK react to the ICES advice for western Baltic cod**

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The ICES advice that catches should be no more than 698 tonnes (for commercial and recreational) is described as a catastrophe by both Danish organisations – cod being the cornerstone for the economy of many fishermen. In Danish:

[https://fiskerforum.dk/torskekvoten-ned-med-80-procent-i-vestlige-oestersoer/?&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fiskerforum\\_daglig\\_nyhedsopdatering&utm\\_term=2021-09-13](https://fiskerforum.dk/torskekvoten-ned-med-80-procent-i-vestlige-oestersoer/?&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-09-13)  
<https://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/torskeraadgivning-er-en-katastrofe-for-kystfiskeriet/>

### **Herring chats - Podcasts about herring**

Created by Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre

<https://soundcloud.com/ostersjopodden>

So far there are three, two of them with scientists and one with the **Swedish Pelagic Federation**

They talk about Baltic herring (why is it being talked about so much these days) the science and the scientific advice and a chat with a representative from the fishery – debunking some of the myths about management of the pelagic fisheries. In Swedish.

<https://soundcloud.com/ostersjopodden/sillsnack-3-anton-paulrud?fbclid=IwAR0q9PsqGHDJZkZcdc3eEAg7f9RLHdWVlHk39oBYkfm3InglcDpnFils0KE>

### **The Danish newspaper Fishing News has reported at length on the Commission's proposal and the ICES advice for Baltic stocks for 2022**

11<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021

This includes reaction of surprise at the proposal from the Commission (to for example on plaice), and that it's a bleak outlook for future fishing in the Baltic

### **The news of suspension of Baltic herring MSC label for Danish fishery**

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

In Danish:

[https://fiskerforum.dk/msc-certificering-suspenderes-for-sild-i-den-oestlige-oestersoe/?&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fiskerforum\\_daglig\\_nyhedsopdatering&utm\\_term=2021-08-11](https://fiskerforum.dk/msc-certificering-suspenderes-for-sild-i-den-oestlige-oestersoe/?&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-08-11)

### **Press release: MSC certification for Polish flatfish trawl fishery - awarded**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

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

### **Coalition Clean Baltic news**

#### **Letter from NGOs and scientists calls for Baltic Sea Ministers political commitment to take action for the Baltic Sea**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

<https://ccb.se/2021/09/letter-from-ngos-and-scientists-calls-for-baltic-sea-ministers-political-commitment-to-take-action-for-the-baltic-sea/>

Over the last year, HELCOM Contracting Parties have intensively revised the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) set to be adopted by all Baltic Sea countries and the European Union on 20 October 2021 with the goal to reach a healthy Baltic Sea. Despite this revision, NGOs and scientists note a worrying lack of ambition and commitment of the HELCOM Contracting Parties as actions fall short and target years are pushed back. The message from scientists is clear; with accelerated climate change and loss of biodiversity, we are at an environmental tipping point which will have social and economic repercussions for generations to come.

#### **The Fisheries Secretariat: A coalition for the Return of Baltic cod has been formed**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

The Return of the cod project, which started at the beginning of 2021, aims to compile the current knowledge and scientific research concerning the state of the Baltic cod in order to work out and implement measures to recover the eastern cod stock. The Return of the Cod (RoC) project has progressed since its onset in January 2021. The scientific report including literature overview and socio-economic analysis has been concluded by two scientists for University of Gothenburg: Ms Lina Birgersson and Mr Mohammed Belhaj. The report will also contain policy guidance and recommendations which will be the basis for the future advocacy work. The report will go to proofreading, graphic designing and printing soon. The launch of the report is scheduled for October 2021. There will also be a national launch events in each Baltic Sea country.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/09/21/a-coalition-for-the-return-of-baltic-cod-has-been-formed/>

#### **Simrishamn: National monitoring programme to include genetic diversity in fish stocks**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

A science seminar was held at the Marine Centre in Simrishamn, Sweden, on 10th September, focusing on the role of genetic diversity as a pillar within ecosystem-based management. Several recent studies on genetic sub-populations of herring were discussed, as well as the shortcomings of the current fisheries management of the herring stocks in the Baltic Sea.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/09/17/national-monitoring-programme-to-include-genetic-diversity-in-fish-stocks/>

#### **BALTIC 2020: the founder Björn Carlson died on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

In Swedish <https://balticsea2020.org/pressrum/820-bjorn-carlson-har-avlidit>

### **WWF Half of the EU fishers earn below the national minimum wage**

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

While many EU fisheries are failing to break even, tax exemptions that fuel unsustainable practices are putting the whole sector at risk. 43% of EU fishers earned below the national minimum in 2018, a new WWF report reveals. For the 56% of EU fishers who work on smaller vessels – those under 12 metres in length – as many as 70% earn less than the minimum wage.

[https://www.wwf.eu/what\\_we\\_do/oceans/?uNewsID=4028466](https://www.wwf.eu/what_we_do/oceans/?uNewsID=4028466)

### **WWF Poland webinar on harbour porpoise, 27th September 2021**

WWF Poland organised a webinar on harbour porpoise. They invited the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Fisheries department), the Hel Marine Station, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Climate and Environment to make presentations on the actual state of the population as well as protection measures, including the new legislative process.

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

### **European Anglers Alliance write about the ICES advice for the western Baltic cod and the Baltic salmon**

29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

It will create more challenges for recreational fishermen, and they put forward proposals from three of the organisations under the EAA umbrella.

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/16203/ices-advice-on-baltic-sea-tacs-more-challenges-for-recreational-fishermen.html>

### **ASCOBANS report on monitoring cetacean bycatch**

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Bycatch is considered one of the greatest threats to cetaceans worldwide. 26 species of small cetaceans are in the ASCOBANS agreement area. Parties to ASCOBANS have passed several resolutions and recommendations aimed at monitoring and reducing bycatch, but the extent of this threat is still unsustainable. EU Regulation 2019/1241 highlights that Member States should collect bycatch data of sensitive species, and that vessels larger than 15m must establish monitoring schemes. However, these vessels fall under only 10% of the European fleet (2019 data). At-sea observer programmes are costly and non-mandatory for vessels <15m length, which make up 90% of the European fleet. The main issue is that some countries do not routinely monitor or report their bycatch levels. Underreporting leads to large differences between cetacean bycatch estimates depending on the source of the data and the data collection methods. Accurate and cost-effective methods are required to cover all countries, fishing gears and métiers in the ASCOBANS region. Remote electronic monitoring (REM) systems with CCTV have emerged as an alternative method that could potentially complement traditional monitoring programmes, providing an independent picture of cetacean bycatch and interaction.

[New ASCOBANS Report on Cetacean Bycatch Monitoring Methods | ASCOBANS](#)

### **Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre Baltic Eye on the Farm to Fork Strategy What's happening with this strategy?**

19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Their comments on where things are so far with the work at EU and EP level.

<https://balticeye.org/en/eutrophication/the-eu-farm-to-fork-strategy--what-is-happening/>

### **Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre Baltic Eye – when will they ever learn?**

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Baltic Eye says that a short-sighted approach by ministers means they ignore the warning signals from scientists. EU fisheries management is dysfunctional. This focuses on western Baltic cod and looks at the politics behind the management and decision-making, against the background of the scientific advice.

<https://balticeye.org/en/fisheries/analysis-when-will-they-ever-learn/>

### **You can still make it: EUROFISH are looking for a new Director**

Deadline to apply 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021. News:

<http://www.eurofish.dk/about-eurofish/news/123-eurofish-international-organisation-seeks-a-new-director-from-1-march-2022>

Job info in full:

<http://www.eurofish.dk/images/Eurofish-Director-2022.pdf>

**Last but not least, rolling in the deep Baltic Sea:**

**The National Marine Fisheries Research Institute celebrate 100 years**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!! This wooden marine topology really shows the depths:**

