



Number 9, November – December 2021REV

We've merged our November news with December

To members: a BIG thank you for your membership contributions - keep them coming.

And to Member States: thank you for your contributions and confirmations of payment in the new year.

We wish all members a very, very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Please let us have any news before end January 2022, if you want it to be included in the next edition.

We read in a press release that:

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) is of central importance for angling in Germany.

One member comments that:

For us, BSAC is the most important institution for the exchange of international knowledge and information

Another, to the Secretariat: for being:

a light in the darkness and a rock in the surf of some meetings



Read on



BSAC news and meetings

RECENT BSAC MEETINGS:

The BSAC Management Team meeting Monday 22nd November 2021

The Management Team discussed, among other things, how to prioritise tasks in the BSAC work for 2021-2022. It plans to ask the Latvian BALTFISH Presidency for a special session so as to discuss a more systematic approach to cooperation between BALTFISH and BSAC. It plans a special session of ExCom to present the BSAC White Paper on CFP Reform - possibly spring 2022. Find a report here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Management-Team-meeting-\(1\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Management-Team-meeting-(1))

Due to COVID-19, the BSAC may be unable to hold physical meetings until spring 2022. But this is what's in store:

The next meeting of the BSAC is Monday 17th January 2021 with an Executive Committee meeting

We'd like to be able to include the invitation and draft agenda in this message, but we can't so please check the website:

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

BSAC HELCOM BALTFISH on the HELCOM updated Baltic Sea Action Plan – a meeting soon

The BSAC has sent an invitation to HELCOM and BALTFISH to a meeting where HELCOM can inform about its updated Baltic Sea Action Plan, the relevant actions relating to fisheries management and their timelines. We wait for a date. See here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-invite-to-HELCOM-and-BALTFISH-about-the-updat>

The HELCOM Meeting took note of the invitation by the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) to have a joint HELCOM, BALTFISH and BSAC meeting in January 2022 to inform the BSAC and BALTFISH about the new BSAP, the relevant actions relating to fisheries management and their timelines.

A Pelagic Working group second half of January 2022

To get an update on investigation and trials into stickleback fishery in the Baltic.

A Demersal Working Group early March 2022

The aim is to look at management of seals in the Baltic.

The BSAC Secretariat has been all over the place

PECH Committee Workshop on "Electronic Technologies for Fisheries" 11th November 2021

So-called 'Electronic technologies' (ETs) have been emerging as supporting tools for fisheries management and control. Fisheries science and fishers are also playing a bigger role for the sector. This PECH Workshop looked at: transmitted positional data systems, electronic monitoring systems and systems adapted for small-scale vessels.

The BSAC Secretariat listened in and made a report:

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

Find the presentations here:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/workshop-on-electronic-technologies-for-/product-details/20211110CAN64103>

European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Parliament on underwater munitions and chemicals 17th November 2021

This is still a major issue of concern, and the Baltic was covered in the meeting. Technologies are available and the time is to act now to remove and dispose of the remaining munitions and chemicals. Talks by officials, experts and entrepreneurs. Read our report here:

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



Underwater noise - report, recommendations and draft policy 18th November 2021

The European Marine Board is a think tank in marine science policy. It provides a platform to advance marine research and to bridge the gap between science and policy. The focus of this short webinar was on underwater noise, an important issue worldwide, and major policy bodies are addressing the issue. There were many references to marine mammals, fish and invertebrates. Read here:

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

HELCOM and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures and the Baltic 23rd November 2021

OECMs are a conservation designation for areas that are achieving effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas. This event was a kick-off to a planned HELCOM workshop 1st - 3rd February 2022 to discuss the relevance of OECMs. Read our report here:

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

HELCOM did a report as well (on HELCOM website)

PECH Committee and recreational fisheries 30th November 2021

The importance of marine recreational fisheries (MRF) in Europe is estimated to be 9 million people, or 1.6% of the population, participating, spending almost 6 billion euros, and fishing for around 77 million days each year. This is big enough to consider the development of a common and stable economic data collection programme. The sector states that it should be considered as a specific sector alongside commercial fisheries and aquaculture under the Common Fisheries Policy. This hearing was a must hear. Find our report here:

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

European Marine Board Supporting the Ocean Decade in Europe 1st December 2021

To facilitate discussion between relevant European Ocean Decade stakeholders, including the science community and policy makers. We will discuss how we can best deliver a successful Ocean Decade.

A BSAC report is here:

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

The agenda is here:

https://www.marineboard.eu/sites/marineboard.eu/files/public/New%20website/Forums/8th%20Forum%20Ocean%20Decade/8th%20EMB%20Forum_draft%20agenda_16Nov2021.pdf

AIPCE-CEP Seafood Trade Symposium 2nd December 2021

A really good morning event to present the work of this organisation (with videos), to discuss issues relating to processing and trade and to make everyone aware of the importance of material supplies to the EU and of the sector in general. Read our report here:

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

EFARO WEBINAR The carrying capacity of the seas and oceans for future marine food production: what knowledge is still missing? December 3rd 10.00 – 12.00 CET

EFARO, the European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations, brings together European Research Institutes involved in Fisheries and Aquaculture. This was a follow-up to the meeting January 2021 (on circular food production from the sea). Over the last decade there have been optimistic views about the oceans and food production from the seas. How can we understand the marine food web? What do we need to know about the marine system and how to stay within it? What are the possible ways forward? Read our report from this meeting:

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

As well as the BSAC report from January:

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



DG ENVIRONMENT on Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and MPAs and pledges from Member States

9-10th December 2021

Nils Höglund, the Chair of the EBM Working Group represented the BSAC and reported from this meeting to find out what has been decided on new MPA targets and how to move forward under the Biodiversity Strategy. The aim was to collect initial pledges from MS on new protected areas and how to connect them. There was also focus on species protection targets. The BSAC representative highlighted the need for cross-sectoral cooperation in Member States and at regional Baltic level. The BSAC will follow this.

Short report here:

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

The BSAC Secretariat has been helping to produce BSAC outputs – now sent

1. Fisheries management measures in German Natura 2000 sites in the Baltic

The BSAC was asked to comment on the measures proposed by Germany in specific sites under Natura 2000 in their EEZ. The proposals were to stop bottom trawling in the designated areas. The BSAC was heard, replies gathered and a reply sent to German authorities.

http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-reply-to-Germany-on-fisheries-measures-in-Nat/BSACChairToGermanyonNK221_22_23.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

2. The ICES advice on European eel - a statement from the BSAC

The BSAC has produced a statement on eel and it focuses on other factors that hamper eel recovery and that require immediate and urgent attention and work. Find it here:

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

If you missed it, the ICES advice on eel published on 4th November 2021:

<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2021/2021/eel.2737.nea.pdf>

The Commission has since written to all Advisory Councils to ask how best to apply the ICES advice on eel. Find it here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-statement-on-eel/2021-12-6-Letter-to-ACs-European-Eel.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

The December Fisheries Council agreed on a rollover of measures for **European eel**, with a three-month closure, enabling consultations to take place with Member States and stakeholders on the best way to manage this stock in response to what the Council refers to as worrying scientific advice.

3. The Commission targeted consultation on Action Plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems

This plan was announced in the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The plan is adoption in the spring 2022. The goal is to exploit synergies between fisheries and environmental policies and help improve implementation. It will directly contribute to the European Green Deal, by making fisheries more sustainable and protecting marine ecosystems and their biodiversity. The Commission has sent several reminders about this and stated that input as a stakeholder. The Secretariat is relieved to have finalised this. The ExCom Chair has sent the BSAC reply to the Commission and Member States:

http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/c88907a6-bfa4-429b-8443-5b699d7f4eeb/BSACreplytoActionPlanConsultation21_22_30.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB



BSAC Secretariat informing about projects

COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES IN BYCATCH REDUCTION IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION – CiBBRiNA – now submitted to Commission

The development of this project has been coordinated by the Dutch administration - **Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality**. The aim is to develop solutions that fishers can use to implement relevant EU, nature and climate policies and reduce bycatch of vulnerable species. The BSAC has sent a letter of support and a couple of BSAC fisheries representatives are involved. When the initial idea for CiBBRiNA was born almost two years ago. They have gathered a lot of people: partners, organisations in a Stakeholder Advisory Board and other smaller organisations from as many as 15 countries (including the US). Total budget 24,4 million euro, with 18,3 million euro requested from the EU. They are very hopeful for a positive outcome. They expect to hear from the European Commission around March/April. Earliest start: September 2022. Information on project here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/CiBBRiNA-LIFE-Bycatch-Outline-Final-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Letters-to-ExCom/CiBBRiNA-LIFE-Bycatch-Outline-Final-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

Mistra and A Sustainable Blue Economy for Sweden – invite to the BSAC

This is about large-scale collaboration for the transition to a sustainable use of the sea and preserved biodiversity in light of climate change. It's a four-year project to develop new knowledge on how the blue economy can contribute to solve climate adaptation and slow down change, and ensuring functioning marine ecosystems. They want to use climate change adaptations as a catalyst for the transition to a sustainable shared and growing blue economy. It's a consortium of Swedish research institutes in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management. So, the BSAC is invited, even to be there as co-creator of the project. They have to submit early January. BSAC ExCom is informed and invited to comment and even co-design.

<https://www.mistra.org/en>

<https://www.mistra.org/forskningsprogram/en-hallbar-bla-ekonomi-for-sverige/>

Commission and Council news and meetings

Driving home for Christmas - after the December Council

This is the news from the Council 14th December 2021

Jože Podgoršek, Slovenian Minister for Agriculture said "Today's agreement is the result of hard work and good will on all sides. It will allow us to maintain fish stocks at sustainable levels while also protecting the livelihoods of European fishing fleets."

consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/12/14/council-agrees-fishing-opportunities-for-2022/

From the Council meeting for the Baltic, we take note of

EUROPEAN EEL: the rollover of measures for eel, with a consecutive three-month closure, enabling consultations with member states and stakeholders to take place on the best way to manage this stock in response to the advice. However, it's made clear that Member States must close the fishery in that period where the greatest migration of eel occurs to the Sargasso Sea.

The Danish Fishermen PO (DFPO) and the Association for Low Impact Fishery PO (FSK PO) have already expressed criticism and concern. DFPO state that the eel fishery is the basis for many coastal fishers who have fished with low impact gears for generations and for years worked hard to help restore the eel stock. FSKPO also refer to the hard work that the fishers have put into meeting the eel management plan. Closing the fishery in those months when the fishery takes place is a catastrophe and will mean an end to the fishery next year. FSKPO have a press release 14th December 2021 and they're planning to hold an emergency meeting:

<https://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/efter-eus-ministerraadsmoede-dansk-aalefiskeri-under-massivt-pres/>

HERRING: a solution to protect the western Baltic herring whilst maintaining relative stability for herring fishery in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.



Commission reports on the outcome

14th December 2021

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/agrifish-council-adopts-2022-fishing-opportunities-north-east-atlantic-2021-12-14_en

STECF 2021 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 21-08)

18th November 2021

EU fleet maintains good profits overall, mainly thanks to sustainable fishing practices and management
The 2021 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet confirms that in 2019, the fleet maintained overall profitability. The report projects similar profitability levels for 2020, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fleet and fish markets. Due to the rise in fuel prices, a reduction in profits is expected for 2021, but the EU fleet is forecast to end 2021 with positive margins, overall. Sustainable fishing practices are helping to mitigate some of the impacts of the rising fuel prices.

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/eu-fleet-maintains-good-profits-overall-mainly-thanks-sustainable-fishing-practices-and-management-2021-11-18_en

<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/2832286/STECF+21-08+-+AER+2021.pdf/e85eedd6-8bf5-4a1d-b5ae-97f0889dabb4>

The EU Fish Market 2021 edition is now online

22nd November 2021

“The EU fish market” is a comprehensive analysis of the EU fisheries and aquaculture industry. If you want to discover more about what is produced/exported/imported, when and where, what is consumed, by whom and what the main trends are, then have a look at the EUMOFA yearly report. Read about:

- Effects of COVID on fish consumption
- Improvement of EU trade balance
- There was a decrease in catches (mainly herring), but increase in imports and aquaculture supplies
- Specifics on salmon, tuna, pollock, mackerel and seabass/seabream

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/news/eu-fish-market-2021-edition-now-online-2021-11-22_en

Commission Conference Future of our Seas 17th December 2021

The ocean is our best asset in the fight against climate change. But our seas and ocean are under pressure. The European Commission has a major tool to protect the ocean: the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), adopted in 2008. This conference will focus on the MSFD with plenary sessions and keynote speakers, and two thematic breakout sessions on "Achieving Good environmental Status of EU Seas" followed by "Making the Directive work".

<https://www.future-of-our-seas.eu/>

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Future-of-our-Seas>

BSAC Secretariat will be taking part and reporting. Report is here:

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

The European Marine Board – navigating the future

29th October 2021

Advancing Seas and ocean science

They've made a short video about navigating the future - just five minutes long

It describes the urgent need for policy-relevant Ocean science to answer complex questions relating to human interactions with the Ocean and to provide solutions to key societal challenges, as well as the role of the Navigating the Future series in highlighting knowledge gaps and making recommendations for societally-relevant Ocean research. The input of the latest edition, Navigating the Future V, is highlighted as an important knowledge base and intellectual contribution to the planning phase of both Horizon Europe and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It also acknowledges the crucial role of the Navigating the



Future series in guiding evolving Ocean science priorities in the future. Marine Science+Stakeholders+Policy
EMB has a youtube video channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcBGY9lckBVRijeW-0a1CsQ>

Commission DG Mare newsletter

December 2021

Nothing specifically Baltic in this issue. But there is coverage of

- The European eel with a Euronews OCEAN special on Sustainable eel: a long and winding journey.
- Aquaculture production by species – this time European eel in a map.
- And there's a job advert for administrators in DG Mare:

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/mare/newsletter-archives/35859>

EUMOFA (European Market Observatory for Aquaculture and Fisheries products)

Latest news November 11/2021

<https://www.eumofa.eu/news-digest-n.11/2021>

Commission adopts contingency plan for food supply and food security in times of crisis

12/11/2021 Following the COVID-19 crisis and as announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU intends to step up coordination at European level to ensure citizens do not face food shortages during crises. The contingency plan adopted today acknowledges the overall resilience of the EU food supply chain, identifies existing shortcomings, and puts forward actions to improve preparedness at EU level. To do this, the Commission will establish a European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM), a group of food supply chain experts coordinated by the Commission to exchange data, practices and strengthen coordination.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_5903

Commission announced two consultations – CFP and common organisation of the markets

Here's the message sent 17.12.21 from the Commission: Dear Advisory Councils,

We would like to inform you that today, the European Commission launched **two targeted consultations** to ask stakeholders to contribute to two reports that the Commission will deliver by the end of 2022: the **report on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)** and the **report on the common market organisation (CMO)**.

The objective of the **CFP report** is to address the functioning of the CFP and look at how we can strengthen its implementation. The [online questionnaire](#) follows the chapters of the CFP Regulation. It is part of the stakeholder consultation process, which will help the Commission collect information and views on the functioning of the CFP. It will provide the basis for more in-depth discussions at regional level starting in April 2022. The consultation process will end with an event before the summer of 2022. The report will also be based on the supporting studies or other consultations, referred to in the corresponding chapters of the questionnaire. In order to prepare the in-depth discussions, we will be available to provide further information and to ensure proper preparation for the discussions at regional level for which we would like to use the existing structure and active participation of the experts working with the CFP in the Member States Regional Groups and Advisory Councils.

The objective of the **CMO report** is to take stock on the implementation of the CMO Regulation and its legal provisions. The [online questionnaire](#) follows the chapters of the CMO Regulation. It is part of the targeted stakeholder consultation, which will help to build an overview of the stakeholders' main concerns and gather information on specific topics.

Questions for both consultations are designed to identify what does or does not work well; identify any evidence of shortcomings in the implementation of the two respective Regulations; and highlight good practices or innovative tools or processes implemented by the stakeholders or Member States. Stakeholders are invited to comment on all or a selection of topics, suggest solutions for the challenges and may provide any other information they consider important.

Please note that both questionnaires are launched in English today before the Christmas break as a **first preview** to allow respondents to familiarize themselves with the content. **Translations in all EU languages** will be added by the end of January 2022 at the latest. Your input as a stakeholder is highly valued by the



Commission and we would therefore encourage you to participate in the consultation, by **28 February 2022**. This deadline is set taking into account that most of you will get back early January 2022 after the Christmas holidays.

PLEASE NOTE: THE COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CFP ISN'T THE SAME AS THE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT FROM MEP GABRIEL MATO - SEE BELOW, PAGE 8 - THAT'S A PECH EXERCISE

BALTFISH news and meetings

Not that we know of.

Roofless news

But we DO know that the BALTFISH Joint Recommendation on technical measures to reduce cod bycatch and protect cod stocks (Roofless) has been dealt with by STECF in its plenary meeting and it's in the report - see pages 74 - 84:

<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/14840948/STECF+PLEN+21-03.pdf/0909ec89-4bf6-4eeb-bb94-e2cf5a19bc92>

We understand that if all goes well with the procedure and hearing of Parliament and Council, it may be a reality in the spring.

We also understand that there's nothing to report on the recommendation to exempt plaice from the landing obligation

European Parliament news and meetings

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

They look back on a busy 2021:

- EMFAF and EU-UK
- own initiatives: role of fisheries and aquaculture in the blue economy and small-scale fisheries sector
- public hearing on the recreational fisheries sector
- Feature on the new Director of EFCA and their work plan for 2022

Note the timetable of work and events into 2022 and all other news:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/242878/Trawler%20November-December%202021.pdf>

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries: (tbc) 24-25 January 2022, 10 February 2022, 3 March 2022, 16-17 March 2022 13.45 -15.45

Message from MEP Gabriel Mato to the BSAC ExCom Chair – consulting stakeholders on functioning of the CFP

Sent 16th December 2021

Dear President,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I was appointed rapporteur of a European Parliament report on the "state of play in the implementation of the CFP and perspectives after 2020".

In this context, I count very much on the stakeholders' views.

I profoundly believe that the creation of the Advisory Councils are a crucial step towards better involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making process, better understanding of the reality on the ground and of the various views on fisheries and aquaculture management. The value of ACs as fora for thorough discussion among all actors concerned and precious advice is evident. Of course, to what extent your contribution is valued and taken into account by the EU Institutions is also fundamental and determines your role in decision-making. Therefore, I would be grateful if your secretariat could disseminate the letter and questionnaire enclosed among your members, encouraging them to respond individually.



Of course, I would be more than happy to receive any contribution or coordinated input from you, in case you consider this feasible / desirable, and would be delighted to participate to any meeting where you would like to discuss the CFP and its future.

Looking forward to personally contribute to your work.

Best regards,
Gabriel Mato”

BSAC Secretariat has disseminated to the BSAC members.

News from other ACs

Inter-AC Secretariats call on 4th November 14:00-16:00 CET.

Following items were discussed:

- possibilities for structuring future joint-AC work/meetings on horizontal issues
- possibilities for streamlining/fast tracking ExCom procedures (when dealing with urgent topics of joint interest)
- Commission communication and attendance at AC meetings
- exchange of views inter-AC meeting on Finances (26th November)
- developments Specialised Fisheries Committee UK

We made a report:

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

The ACs Secretariats met DG Mare on 26th November 2021

This was mainly administration and finances. The ACs Secretariats have just got updated guidelines on how to do things. And there was a brainstorming on how to improve collaboration and working procedures with the Commission (regional groups were mentioned too). Then the nitty gritty of future funding of the ACs by means of lump-sums

See our report:

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

Commission commissioned study on regionalisation - Meeting 29th November 2021

This meeting was with the Advisory Councils. AC secretariats, AC chairs and some members took part. It's part of a larger study conducted for DG MARE (by Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food/ Wageningen Marine Research and MRAG), aimed to provide an overview of the functioning of regionalisation process under the CFP. At this meeting the preliminary findings of the study were presented. Participants were asked to reflect on the findings in small breakout groups. The European Commission attended the first plenary part of the meeting to clarify any questions about the project and next steps.

Chatham House rule applied. See our report:

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

The next meeting of Advisory Councils with the Commission (INTER-ACs) will be on 19th January 2022) And a meeting of the Secretariats and Chairs on 18th January 2022

Invitation from DG Mare here:

And an agenda for the ACs meeting as well:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/ACs-meeting-with-Commission>

Commission Delegated Regulation on the functioning of the ACs.

Earlier this year, the Commission proposed a few changes to the regulation on how the Advisory Councils function. They discussed it with the ACs and with Member States. Everyone provided feedback, including the BSAC. The BSAC had no strong feelings about the proposed changes, but may ask for help on the selection criteria when classifying members into the interest groups. The Secretariat was anxious to avoid extra work in drafting and producing advice and recommendations; no template has been imposed on the ACs, so we see this as a small victory. The Delegated Regulation (almost final) is here:

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



ICES and science

The annual meeting between stakeholders and ICES MIACO: POSTPONED

The annual meeting between ACs and ICES MIAC also POSTPONED

Due to COVID and restrictions, ICES is postponing its MIACO meeting until first half of 2022. In preparation for MIACO, they wanted comments on the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Report, by 10th December 2021, by using the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/1MmY8y7p2Z>

This was a Workshop ICES held earlier in the year called WKSHOES. BSAC didn't take part. ICES is developing a stakeholder engagement strategy. ICES invites members to reply as individual organisations.

The MIAC meeting (ICES with ACs), planned for 13th January 2022, is also postponed.....

The BSAC sent its questions to ICES about eastern Baltic cod. Find the first draft agenda for the MIAC here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/ICES-meets-the-ACs-MIAC,-ICES-meets-stakeholders-M>

ICES has advertised for a new General Secretary

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

Deadline Monday 3rd January 2022

The new ICES president William Karp

2nd November 2021

Further elections saw Carl O'Brien, Cefas, UK, elected First Vice-President and Piotr Margonski, National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Poland elected to the position of Vice-President. O'Brien thanked delegates for his election to the position and looked forward to working closely with Council delegates over the next years.

<https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/New-ICES-President-elected-at-2021-Council.aspx>

ICES advice on Marine Strategy Framework Directive Descriptors 3 and 4

ICES sent a reply to a DG ENVIRONMENT request on the MSFD Article 8 assessment guidance on undertaking assessments for Descriptor 3 (commercially exploited fish and shellfish) and Descriptor 4 (marine food webs). Find it here:

<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Forms/DispForm.aspx?ID=38347>

ICES ecosystem overviews - update for Baltic on fisheries and abrasion graphs

The new ICES Ecosystem Overview for the Central Arctic ecoregion has been released today together with a revised version of the Celtic Seas Ecosystem Overview. In addition, annual fisheries and abrasion graphs have been updated in the overviews for the Azores, Baltic Sea, Barents Sea, Greater North Sea, Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters, East Greenland Sea and Icelandic Waters ecoregions. All the Ecosystem Overviews are available from the ICES website at: <https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx>

The Baltic stuff is here, and you have to unpack it:

<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Forms/DispForm.aspx?ID=38426>



HELCOM

HELCOM on meta data

16.11.21

HELCOM has a meta data catalogue of over 1,000 data sets services and maps, covering lots of topics and themes – on land and at sea. It's been given a re-vamp. And it's been made compatible with the EU Directive INSPIRE which aims to create a European Union spatial data infrastructure for EU environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment.

<https://helcom.fi/helcom-revamps-its-metadata-catalogue-improving-the-search-of-over-1000-baltic-sea-maps/>

Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Food webs (CG FOODWEB 5-2022), is to be held online on 24th January 2022 from 10.00 to 13.00 (EET).

CG FOODWEB 4-2021 agreed that CG FOODWEB 5-2022 should be focused on reference period and data aspects, with tentatively having an update from Sweden on the methodology based on Integrated Trend Analyses (ITA).

The joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23A-2021) Thursday 27th January 2022

The Meeting will focus on further elaboration of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG's workplan. The Meeting will also consider, if time allows a tour de table on climate change consideration in national MSP processes.

HELCOM online meeting on OECMs 1st – 3rd February 2021

This will be a follow up on the first step workshop on 23rd November (see above)

There's no agenda yet.

HELCOM FISH 13-2021 (FISH 14-2022) the group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries ONLINE 23rd -24th February 2022.

Message from HELCOM:

Due to the deteriorating COVID-19 situation in Germany, as well as general uncertainties regarding travel and meeting restrictions, a decision has been made by Germany, the Chair of the Fish Group and the Secretariat, that FISH 14-2021 on 23-24 February 2022, will be held as an online meeting using Zoom. The invitation, agenda and meeting link will be sent out in due course.

We are also pleased to inform you that Germany is happy to host a future meeting of the Fish Group on the Isle of Vilm.

HELCOM and Baltic Earth tenth Meeting of the HELCOM/Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change (EN CLIME 10-2021) 10th February 2022

They'll be looking at their Climate Change Fact Sheet, sharing information non mitigation activities, and connections between HELCOM indicators and climate parameters. See below the Baltic Breakfast (Stockhold University) on climate change and impacts on the Baltic

There's LOADS more on HELCOM meetings here: [HELCOM](#)

Other information/reading, including from BSAC members

Association for Low-Impact Fisheries PO on extraction of raw materials - a threat to fisheries 1st December 2021

A case study from Thyborøn, but it could be anywhere. How sand extraction is destroying fishing areas and how the fish disappear once the machines have gone past. According to the Danish ministry of environment, extraction of raw materials is the major cause of seabed loss and which is likely to increase. The organisation strongly encourages the Danish Government to re-think its marine plan (for use of the Danish marine area) and its implications for the marine area. In Danish:

<https://skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk/raastofindvining-en-trussel-imod-fiskeriet/>

Danish Fishermen PO and the Fishing News for November and December

In their recent editions of Fishing News following issues have been of concern in relation or close to the Baltic:



- Concerns about the Marine Plan – future overall planning of use of and activities in the Danish marine area and its impact of fisheries as well as the marine environment
- Seven concrete proposals for the future Baltic fisheries – and the reply from the Danish Minister Rasmus Prehn (a plan for the Baltic is still awaited)
- An SOS from the mayors of Bornholm to the Danish minister, after the October Fisheries Council cuts
- “Into the lion’s mouth”: Interview with the Danish Minister after his first year in charge of fisheries
- A November Danish fisheries conference - well attended – to discuss the future of Danish fisheries – including concerns over the Baltic
- Concerns about eel and fishing possibilities - from the President of the DFPO
- General Assembly of the western Baltic port of Klintholm with Kim Kær Hanse, n Chairman - painting a very bleak picture for fisheries in their area
- A debate article from the Association for Low Impact Fisheries PO – to clarify that they never proposed a total ban on trawling in Danish waters - concerns are for beam trawling and preserving part of the western Baltic for fishing with low impact gears

Contact: ikj@dkfisk.dk and their journalists

New energy islands and windmills put pressure on fisheries

Fiskerforum 23rd November 2021

This reports on plans to create the world’s first energy islands in the North Sea and off Bornholm – to produce enough energy for 5 million households. Fishermen raise particular concerns for the North Sea where an area the size of about 64 football pitches is planned and will have negative impacts on the fishery (flatfish)

https://fiskerforum.dk/energi-oeer-og-havmoeller-presser-fiskeriet/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-11-24

Fiskerforum and the Danish budget for 2022 – the Belts and ban on trawling

8th December 2021 (and earlier reporting from 5th – 7th December)

Here’s reporting over several days from Fiskerforum on the political agreement for the Danish budget 2022. It’s not just about finance. It also includes an agreement between the government and its supporting parties to introduce a ban on trawling in the Belts. Protests were heard. Some questioned the democratic process involved in reaching this agreement. The Danish Fishermen PO President (Svend-Erik Andersen) called it a scandal. A shocked chairman of the local association for the Belts (Allan Buch) called it a new low point in Danish politics.

The details of the agreement have to be worked out in 2022 – the sector hopes that this will be done through dialogue and consultation of relevant organisations and interests. In Danish:

https://fiskerforum.dk/minister-svigter-dansk-fiskeri/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-12-14

More on trawling and its potential harmful effects – studies by Aquamind

Fiskerforum 7th December 2021

Reports on green organisations lining up with certain political parties in Denmark to ban trawling. Fiskerforum asks where they get their information from about potential harmful effects. Fiskerforum refers to studies and reports produced by the consulting company Aquamind, including trials and work carried out with the research institute DTU Aqua and equipment makers. They found out it was possible to reduce fuel consumption, reduce impact on the seabed and increase profitability by making use of the best technology available.

The article in the link gives links to the Aquamind reports:

https://fiskerforum.dk/trawls-negative-indvirken-paa-havbunden-er-en-skroene/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-12-14

The Aquamind study from 2013 has a summary in English on page 6:

<https://fiskerforum.dk/wp-content/uploads/Tammerapport-30-april-2013-2.pdf>

Danish Pelagic PO has tarted up its website

And it includes some short information items on:



- Plastic in the sea 2nd December 2021 – a short piece on the scale of the problem and the implications for the sea and marine animals. So, it's important to think about how and where we throw away our rubbish so we can continue to have a nature that we can take care of and sea to fish in.
- A short introduction to fisheries management 8th December 2021
- Microalgae and their importance 14th December 2021 – to the role in the ecosystem and the problems that arise when there's an excess production of them.

European Anglers Alliance news on Biodiversity Strategy and protected areas: recreational angling should not be excluded

8th December 2021

This relates to the criteria and guidelines for the designation of protected areas and what activities should be categorised as extractive activities. The text containing all these criteria is non-binding. The latest version removes angling from the blanket approach. The EAA is happy about this

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/16349/recreational-angling-will-not-be-excluded-by-default-from-strictly-protected-areas-in-the-eu.html>

And on the European Parliament Hearing on data and recreational fisheries

1st December 2021

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/16340/pech-committee-hearing-a-sustainable-use-of-and-fair-access-to-fish-stocks-requires-better-data-on-recreational-fisheries.html>

Coalition Clean Baltic on 2030 targets and the EU's nature restoration law

14th December 2021

They report on a joint NGO letter to the Commission calling for clear and measurable targets for land area, river length and sea area.

<https://ccb.se/2021/12/150-ngos-call-for-ambitious-2030-targets-in-upcoming-eu-nature-restoration-law/>

Fisheries Secretariat has been drawing attention to:

1. **The Commission consultation on the EU Action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems**

10th November 2021

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/11/10/second-consultation-on-eu-action-plan-to-conserve-fisheries-resources-and-protect-marine-ecosystems/>

2. **On eel no catches of European eel can be considered sustainable**

4th November 2021

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/11/04/scientific-advice-no-catches-of-european-eel-can-be-considered-sustainable/>

3. **Herring fisheries drove economic development in the Baltic Sea**

29th November, 2021

Stockholm university together with the Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment hosted a full day symposium with a focus on fisheries in the Baltic Sea from a historical perspective. The newly released report "Fisket i Stockholms skärgård under historisk tid", Fisheries in the Stockholm archipelago in historic times, was the underlying reason for the event.

[Herring fisheries drove economic development in the Baltic Sea – The Fisheries Secretariat \(fishsec.org\)](#)

4. **Not a great deal for eel in 2022**

Reacting to the December Council decision for European eel.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2021/12/14/not-a-great-deal-for-eel-in-2022/>

German Angling Association DAFV had a press release on the ICES advice for eel 2022

6th November 2021



DAFV were surprised by the ICES advice and fear that a ban on eel fisheries will have severe negative effects. Commercial fishers and anglers are the eyes and the ears of the sea; if fishing stops, it will mean an end to social awareness of the eel problem. They add that German anglers and the European commercial eel sector (fishing, aquaculture, processing, trade) have for many years been actively supporting measures to help recovery of the European eel population. In German:

<https://www.dafv.de/projekte/europaarbeit/item/504-ices-empfiehl-pauschales-europaweites-fangverbot-fuer-den-europaeischen-aal>

DAFV the welcome the decision to roll over the eel measures in 2022

14th December 2021

They report on the December Council, welcome the decision on eel, as it continues the European strategy for protection of eel. They also think the decision ensures that illegal catches and exports of glass eels are prevented. And they say nice things about the BSAC – of central importance for angling in Germany – and they refer to the common position sent by the BSAC to the Commission (see above). Read German here:

<https://www.dafv.de/projekte/europaarbeit/item/516-dreimonatiges-aalfangverbot-wird-2022-fortgesetzt>

German fisheries organisations with Fischerblatt October 2021

The front page says it all: “Sun”set for the Baltic fisheries?

Written after the October fisheries Council, it has a string of news, with reactions from the organisations, the German ministries, as well as viewpoints from sector representatives, Europêche, EU representatives and representatives from science and NGOs. There’s also an article on the role of women in fisheries, processing and aquaculture. This follows on from a hearing in September 2021 in the European Parliament. Recognising the role of women in the sector and the need for equal treatment is recognised
info@deutscher-fisherei-verband.de

WWF

November 2021

Splash out (the right way): 15 Recommendations for spending the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) How Member States can adopt FAIR operational programmes for the new EMFAF, by BirdLife, WWF, Client Earth and LIFE

The EMFAF agreed by EU decision-makers is a fund designed for outdated purposes. It doesn’t address the challenges of the 21st century, in particular the climate and biodiversity crises. FAIR operational programmes are Fair, Ambitious, Innovative and Revitalising: Fair to small-scale fishers and everyone who depends on a thriving marine environment, Ambitious in delivering essential changes, Innovative in financing new types of aid and Revitalising by aiming for the restoration and protection of our ocean and coastal communities.

Under the new EMFAF, Member States have wide discretion to decide what they want to finance for the next 7 years. We urge Member States to use this discretion to make bold choices for the future of their fisheries, of the broader marine environment along their coastlines and of the ocean, our planet’s climate regulator. 4. We have 15 recommendations to make EMFAF operational programmes FAIR:

https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/emfaf_briefing_nov2021.pdf

In Denmark support a citizen proposal to regulate seals

7th November 2021

If there are 50,000 DK citizens who can vote, and want to, then they can put forward a petition that the Parliament has to consider. This one is to regulate seals in Danish waters, building on data registered by commercial and recreational fishers, and work towards a system which the Danish Institute DTU Aqua would coordinate. In Danish:

https://fiskerforum.dk/stoet-borgerforslaget-regulering-af-saeler-i-dansk-farvand/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-11-07

Arctic Atlantification

Reported by Fiskeribladet

18th November 2021



https://fiskerforum.dk/oekosystemet-vil-aendre-sig-med-atlantisering-i-nord/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fiskerforum_daglig_nyhedsopdatering&utm_term=2021-11-18

This is not strictly Baltic, but relates to climate change and data showing that vigorous inflows of Atlantic water has strengthened due to climate change and causing Arctic waters to a state more closely resembling the Atlantic. Here's the article on the website of nature reviews earth and environment:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43017-021-00228-x>

Article on regime shifts - Reference state, structure, regime shifts, and regulatory drivers in a coastal sea over the last century: The Central Baltic Sea case

19th November 2021

By Maciej T. Tomczak et al

This is about the regime shifts that have occurred in the Baltic as well as other changes related to human pressures, climate etc. The time period covered is from 1925 – 2005. Over the timespan, long term, the Central Baltic Sea showed a regime shift from a benthic to pelagic-dominated state. Their analysis shows that for the entire time period, productivity, climate, and hydrography mainly affected the functioning of the food web, whereas fishing became important more recently. The human-induced productivity increase caused by eutrophication has far-reaching direct and indirect impacts in the long term. One conclusion is that knowledge and identification of past ecosystem regimes is essential for informing ecosystem-based management of sustainable seas.

<https://aslopubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/lno.11975>

Check out the EUROFISH Magazine November-December!

And find out about:

- Digitalisation of the fishing industry - innovative technologies to deal with overfishing, bycatches and discards - a good article to read
- A project to promote Baltic Sea fish (in Poland) – how to increase consumption of Baltic seafood
- Why children in Denmark don't eat enough fish
- The promise of seaweed
- German seafood trade show Bremen 2022
- Plant-based seafood in a can – from Latvia
- And much, much more.....

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

EUROPECHE - ETF Social Partners Joint resolution on seafood standards and supply chains

23rd November 2021

This aims at better regulating the proliferation of sustainability labels certifying social conditions on board fishing vessels. The intention is to avoid social-washing labels while stressing the importance of the ILO "Work in Fishing" Convention C188 as guardian of human and labour rights of fishers at sea, which cannot be replaced or substituted by private schemes.

https://www.etf-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SSDC_joint_resolution_on_social_certification_in_the_seafood_industry.pdf

LOW IMPACT FISHERIES LIFE Conserve the Eel, Preserve the Fishery, Save the Small-Scale Fishers

8th December 2021

The Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) calls on the Council of Ministers not to institute a closure of all eel fishing in 2022, as recommended in the ICES Advice of 4th November 2021. This is not needed; it would be counterproductive and would do more harm than good. Rather, "smart measures" are needed to assure fluvial continuity from source to sea, measures to stop eels being killed by hydro-power plants and industrial water abstraction, and an end to the illegal capture, trade and trafficking of eels.

Conserve the Eel, Preserve the Fishery, Save the Small-Scale Fishers – Life Platform

LIFE: World Fisheries Day, 21st November 2021



22nd November 2021

Since 1998, small-scale fishers around the world have celebrated November 21 to mark "World Fisheries Day". On November 21 1997, meeting in New Delhi, India, representatives of small-scale fishers from 18 countries, both North and South, committed themselves to a joint struggle to obtain fair and sustainable fisheries around the world. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) is calling on the European Commission to embed #SDG 14b) into the CFP – to provide access to small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

SDG 14 b) is - or should be - a no brainer. It goes without saying that without access to marine resources and access to markets, artisanal fisheries will never be viable, able to provide decent work, let alone sustain livelihoods and food security for current and future generations.

Yet in the EU, after 4 decades of successive Common Fisheries Policies (CFPs), that is exactly what the European Union and its member states seem to expect. In its preamble, the 2014 reformed CFP states that "the CFP should contribute to increased productivity, to a fair standard of living for the fisheries sector including small-scale fisheries, and to stable markets, and it should ensure the availability of food supplies and that they reach consumers at reasonable prices."

Follow LIFE at <https://lifeplatform.eu/>

Some Swedish news from:

Baltic Eye – cynical reasoning - Increased trawl fishing on flatfish risks further damaging Baltic cod stocks

19th November 2021

Concerns here about fishing for flatfish in the southern Baltic by Denmark, German and Poland and the risk that in pursuit of the flatfish, too much cod gets taken up in the trawl. The biggest risk, however, is that the few big cod that are there get fished up. Researcher Henrik Svedäng has been compiling data on the changes in the size structure of the cod. The lack of big cod has never been so great. A more balanced catch is what's needed. The article then goes on to refer to the work by BALTFISH to approve and recommend the Roofless gear to allow cod to escape – developed by Thünen Institute – and to interview and get input from the German gear expert Daniel Stepputtis.

<https://balticeye.org/sv/hallbart-fiske/plattfiske-och-bifangst-av-torsk/>

Policy brief from Stockholm University on coastal zones and mitigating climate change

25th November 2021

This lengthy article talks about the importance of coastal areas in terms of taking up and storing carbon from the atmosphere. It explains the processes involved and what kind of vegetation there is in these zones to carry out the work. It also makes some recommendations:

- Help the undisturbed areas by reducing the amount of harmful pollutants and nutrients
- Prevent bottom disturbing activities such as bottom trawling and dredging
- Stop exploiting the coast by limiting buildings and piers
- Restore coastal systems such as eelgrass beds and bladder wrack belts
- Include management of coastal areas in climate policy
- Support research on habitats in the Baltic Sea that address blue carbon

In Swedish: <https://www.su.se/stockholms-universitets-ostersjocentrum/policyverksamhet/policy-briefs-och-fact-sheets/ost%C3%B6rda-kustekosystem-avg%C3%B6rande-f%C3%B6r-att-motverka-klimatf%C3%B6r%C3%A4ndringar-1.584751>

Stockholm University with a short video on eutrophication and why the Baltic Sea isn't recovering

The situation with eutrophication IS improving, but there are still algal blooms and oxygen-depleted bottoms:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tGn9r92nQc>

Further land-based measures are needed, as explained here (English) – four pages of science brief:

https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.580504.1635505389!/menu/standard/file/PBinternbelastningEngWebb.pdf

Stockholm University – Baltic Sea Centre with Baltic Breakfast on climate change



Climate change is already affecting the Baltic Sea. How is the Baltic coping? This 45 minute session gave latest information.

Professor Markus Meier, Leibniz Institute summarised climate change impacts on the Baltic Sea physics, biogeochemistry and ecosystems. Lots of data gathered. Expect: increase in sea surface temperatures, and in air temperatures, decrease in sea ice extent, difficult to give info on salinity, increase in sea level, increase in precipitation; if implement the BSAP it will lead to improvement in deep water oxygen conditions. A map shows the climate future of the Baltic Sea with projected changes. Change will happen, but there are vast differences in the Baltic Sea. All parameters that depend on air temperature are seriously affected. But there are uncertainties related to the water cycle. And there are regional differences – land uplift is an important factor here. There will be increase in precipitation, but it's not certain that salinity will decline – it depends on water exchange with North Sea to counter-act the effects from freshening from northern part of the Baltic. The uncertainty is large, but they do have more and better models. They can't yet deal with food web changes.

HELCOM and Baltic Earth have produced a fact sheet on climate change:

<https://helcom.fi/media/publications/Baltic-Sea-Climate-Change-Fact-Sheet-2021.pdf>

Professor Anna Rutgersson, Uppsala University, gave latest research on effects of extreme events and natural hazards in the Baltic Sea catchment area. This is extremely important for society to be able to react. They looked at a lot of factors, over short and long term. A summary table shows the major factors, and the confidence level. Drought and river flooding more regional in the Baltic. The climate will continue to be highly variable; clear signals of heatwaves and heavy precipitation, decrease in cold spells and heavy ice. Expect an increase in algal blooms. Impacts on society and mitigation need further examination. It's not black and white and need to focus on what will be more extreme and how society will cope with this.

This detailed information on the Baltic region is very useful for planning. Discussions have started in terms of policy, politicians and city planners are taking it seriously. What do the speakers want for Christmas? On **Markus Meier's** wish list: for the dialogue between scientists and policy makers to continue: HELCOM has started this. On **Anna Rutgersson's** wish list: a global CO₂ tax – to solve the problem at global level – and high degree of support at national level to deal with local problems. See and listen here, it's really good (fish wasn't mentioned once!)

<https://www.su.se/stockholms-universitets-ostersjocentrum/policyverksamhet/baltic-breakfast>

More on climate change from the Nordic Marine Think Tank

The Nordic Marine Think Tank and ICES held a two-day Workshop on climate change in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, 9th-10th December 2021. They want to set up a Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture to exchange knowledge on this. All the presentations are on the website - go down to the bottom:

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

Thanks to a tweet from ICES ACOM Chair

Mark Dickey Collas,
we know who takes over
the chairmanship of NMTT:



Sound effects: Some BBC nature news with you with whoops and growls - it's Indonesia, not the Baltic

Recordings of fish 'whooping, croaking and growling' reveal reef coming back to life, scientists say.
8th December 2021

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59567875>

Marine litter and health and safety

**NOAA – National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration – Marine Debris Program
Keep the Sea Free of Debris**

Here's their 2022 calendar – look at it and marvel at the beautiful pictures that pre-school and school children have made for this US calendar:

https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2022_Marine_Debris_Calendar.pdf

News from an information group on plastics

This came from the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge

<https://www.oceaninnovationchallenge.org/>

looking for single-point online access to public policy documents targeting plastic pollution, I'm happy to introduce you to the global Plastics Policy Inventory put together by Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University. UNDP is supporting it within Ocean Innovation Challenge (OIC) funded by Sida and Norad.

Here are more details about the Inventory and the OIC in Exposure

<https://oceaninnovationsandactions.exposure.co/a-coordinated-digital-response-to-plastic-wastes-the-global-plastics-policy-inventory>

Plastic Pollution is a Threat to Global Security



This is a unique study which demonstrates the significant compounding effects of plastic pollution with a lens of how these implications affect global security. This report explores the issues of plastic pollution and discusses the need for binding global emergency measures that have resulted in other similar environmentally focused threats to security.

<https://oceanlegacy.ca/to/f/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Plastic-Pollution-is-a-Threat-to-Global-Security-FINAL.pdf>

From the so-called Ocean Plastic network - this is what it looks like to get netting round your neck

A (12 minute) film from the organisations Ocean Friends and the Boomerang Club in Russia disentangling northern fur seals from marine plastics (English subtitles).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ARE9ZVGieM>