

Dear members,

We wrote to members for contributions by Friday 28th September 2018

If you want to share your news and activities, then please let us have any news by Monday 29th October 2018.

BSAC news and meetings

Are YOU preparing for the Extraordinary General Assembly (and an Ex Com meeting) Tuesday 6th November 2018 Gdynia???

The invitation signed by the honorary chair has already been sent to you all. He will be writing to you again with an update and news. Hotel rooms have already been reserved at the MERCURE Gdynia Centrum. Please quote "BSAC" in order to book a room. And please remember the request about the registering on the Commission's transparency register; all members are asked to do this in order to be eligible for reimbursement of travel and hotel expenses.

The BSAC held a Joint WG to deal with the Commission's proposal for a revised Control Regulation: 23rd August 2018 Copenhagen: output

This was a constructive meeting in that it dealt with the core proposed areas in the Commission's proposal. The different opinions and viewpoints amongst the BSAC members were recorded. There was no detailed going through of articles of the proposal: this will be dealt with at a later meeting, and further work will be dedicated to producing specific comments to specific articles. Of particular interest and concern in the proposal were general agreement on a need for a control regulation and a level playing field. Moreover, under enforcement, the proposed measures on sanctions, inspection and surveillance and vessel tracking gave rise to discussion and reflected different views amongst the members. There is no clear deadline from the COM on input, since the schedule of events in Brussels with European Parliament elections and new Commission means that this proposal cannot be adopted in a short time.

The report from this meeting has been finalised and put on the website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Demersal-Pelagic-WG>

As agreed at the meeting, this will be put on the agenda for the coming Ex Com meeting in November and a decision taken on where and how to go from here.

Eels and don't forget the seals: BSAC Ecosystem-based Management Working Group to deal with eel, Tuesday 4th September, Copenhagen

A full report from this meeting will soon be finalised and made available. The major item on this agenda was eel, and the job was to draft a reply to the letter from DG Mare of 5th June 2018 about measures to take in 2018 in order to promote the recovery of eels.

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

The BSAC has already been working on this subject: Answers were sent to DG Mare on 1st September 2017: BSAC proposals for possible ways forward to improve the situation of European eel.¹ On 15th May 2018, the BSAC sent a reply to the roadmap on the eel consultation. Remind yourselves of the reply here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/Input-from-the-BSAC-regarding-the-roadmap-for-eel>

The Working Group discussed thoroughly the questions sent by DG Mare on 5th June 2018. The Secretariat formulated a draft reply which the Working Group commented on and finalised and it was then sent to the BSAC ExCom for comment, finalisation and adoption. This was done in good time and the BSAC has sent its reply to DG Mare and to the BALTFISH member states. You can find it here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-replies-recovery-of-eel>

The Working Group also discussed topics and questions to address at a coming workshop on seals, proposed as a Joint HELCOM/BALTFISH workshop (no date for this decided yet). In addition, the chair of the Working Group proposed a draft BSAC statement on the illegal killing of seals. Draft BSAC proposals as input to the joint HELCOM/BALTFISH workshop on seals and a draft BSAC statement on seals have been sent to the BSAC ExCom for comment and adoption and will be finalized very soon, during this week.

Wiadomości Rybackie

Practice your Polish! Ewa Milewska, BSAC rapporteur and information assistant makes regular contributions to the Polish magazine called WIADOMOŚCI RYBACKIE and which is edited by the BSAC honorary chair. This magazine is produced every other month and is widely read in the Polish speaking world and appreciated very much. You can have a look here:

<http://rybackie.com.pl/files/2018/WR-7-8-2018.pdf>

This edition contains a short article on the last two BSAC working groups, and it announces the BSAC General Assembly. It also has an article on the DTU Aqua project TABACOD which involves tagging Baltic cod and following where it goes.

BSAC meeting of fisheries interests representatives with the honorary chair , 28th September 2018

The honorary chair held a meeting with BSAC fisheries representatives in order to discuss and decide on a new candidate (after the withdrawal by Peter Ronelöv Olssen of his candidacy) who must have the full support of the fisheries group, to ensure a successful General Assembly meeting on 6th November in Gdynia. A short report from the meeting is being finalized and will be made available to BSAC members.

How goes the rebuilding on western Baltic herring?: Skyping Friday 28th September 2018

At the BSAC Executive Committee meeting on 28th June 2018 it was agreed to create a Focus Group to deal with the western Baltic herring: agreed as highly important given the advice from ICES to set a zero quota for 2019. It is expected that the stock will remain under B_{lim} for a number of years from now on. Moreover, the MSC label for the herring was removed on 21st September and will remain that way until the scientific advice points in the right direction again. A draft document containing key proposed elements of a rebuilding plan for the western Baltic herring has already been produced and sent to Ex Com members (no comments received by the Secretariat). The matter has been put onto the agenda of the planned Executive Committee meeting on 6th November 2018 in Gdynia. To discuss where matters stand, a short Skype meeting was held on Friday 28th September 2018 and led by the Pelagic WG chair Mart Undrest together with Claus Reedz Sparrevohn from the Danish Pelagic PO. The Secretariat took part and made notes. It was agreed to take a longer-term approach now that the decision on the TAC will be taken at the forthcoming fisheries council meeting on 15th/16th October 2018. The Secretariat is checking with ICES about whether a formal evaluation of the Baltic multi annual plan is available. Mart Undrest will present the point at the ExCom and invite discussion and invite participation of the other interest group into the work of the Focus Group. Information on the evaluation of the MAP is awaited. The Pelagic Advisory Council has experience of work with rebuilding plans for boarfish and for western horse mackerel. Although the status of these stocks is not parallel with the western Baltic herring, which is below B_{lim} , it is worth noting that the build-up of the process is similar. Look ahead to the Executive Committee meeting 6th November 2018.

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

BALTFISH Forum meeting Wednesday 5th September 2018 Stockholm: the T90 and BACOMA codends

The BALTFISH Presidency sent to the BSAC a letter from Swedish Fisheries Director Sara Colliander. It refers to the Joint recommendation from Denmark and Germany about modifying the T90 and BACOMA codends in the Baltic Cod Trawl Fisheries. The Swedish BALTFISH Presidency is notifying the BSAC in writing, informing of its intention to end the consultation with the BSAC by 30th September 2018. This was already presented at the BALTFISH Forum meeting on 28th June 2018 and referred to at the BSAC Executive Committee Workshop on Selectivity in the demersal fishery: technical solutions to current problems?, held on

7th September 2017. The BSAC Executive Committee has been notified and invited to comment. As no comments have been received, the BALTFISH Presidency has been informed that the BSAC has no comments to the proposed Joint recommendation. Letter from BALTFISH attached [./](#). BSAC reply being finalised.

The acting ExCom chair, vice chair and chairs of the Demersal and ecosystem based management WGs took part and represented the BSAC at the BALTFISH meeting. A short report from the BSAC Secretariat is attached [./](#). The own report from BALTFISH is awaited.

Council/Commission/EU European Parliament / Control Agency news

State of the stocks: now known as Science Seminar: Friday 14th September 2018

The format of this regular, annual meeting changed this year. Instead of presenting the annual state of the stocks around the EU waters, under the different geographical headings, the focus was on a review of long-term fisheries science challenges, long-term trends with respect to maximum sustainable yield, and mixed fisheries. Ernesto Peñas, Adviser DG Mare presented the long-term science challenges from the perspective of a consumer of fisheries science, Eskild Kirkegaard, ACOM Chair presented the mixed fisheries: ambitions, progress and achievements, challenges: Northeast Atlantic and Baltic Sea and Ernesto Jardim, Joint Research Council presented the long-term trends with respect to MSY.

The presentations from the meeting are here:

<https://en.xing-events.com/XIWWDYC.html?jsessionid=F88BCECE5EBCB5989DC97F0C7188E33E.amiando?page=1587900>

And a short report written by the Secretariat is attached [./](#).

Want to work for the STECF? Call for applications Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

The Commission is calling for applications for the selection of members of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Deadline for applications is 31 October 2018.

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/call-applications-scientific-technical-and-economic-committee-fisheries_en

The EU-Russia annual meetings on long term management, control and joint committee: 24th to 27th September Moscow

Three meetings were organised under the EU-Russia fisheries agreement for the Baltic: Working Group on Long-term Management of Living Marine Resources in the Baltic Sea (24-25 September), • Working Group on Control and Monitoring (24-25 September), and • 11th Session of the Russian Federation – European Union Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Committee (JBSFC) (26-27 September).

Krzysztof Stanuch, National Chamber of Fish Producers was the BSAC representative at the Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Committee. He also attended, as observer, the preparatory coordination meeting between the Commission and the Member States.

His report from the meeting will follow.

The EFCA Control Agency Advisory Board meeting 9th October 2018 Vigo

The acting chair will be taking part on behalf of the BSAC. Comments/input to the agenda were invited by the Secretariat by Friday 31st August 2018. No comments received. The final agenda is here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-Meeting-\(1\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFCA-Advisory-Board-Meeting-(1))

The regular annual meeting of the Advisory Councils and the Commission at the Inter-AC meeting 16th October 2018 Brussels

The invitation and agenda are here:

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

The acting chair, vice chair and BSAC secretariat will be taking part at this meeting.

The PECH Newsletter Trawler of September 2018 prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries is available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/newsletters.html#menuzone>

European Parliament: Next Fisheries Committee meeting:
8th – 9th October 2018

Agenda here:

[http://www.emeeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/agenda/201810/PECH/PECH\(2018\)1008_1/sitt-8762045](http://www.emeeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/agenda/201810/PECH/PECH(2018)1008_1/sitt-8762045)

On the agenda is the proposal for a multiannual management plan for the North Western Waters (and including the amendment of the annex in the Baltic management plan)

It will also include a public hearing from 14.30 to 18.30 on 9th October:

“Landing obligation: state of play before its full implementation in January 2019” **9 October 2018**

ICES news and Advice Activities SharePoint site (Work in progress)

As promised at the annual meeting of ICES and stakeholders (including the Advisory Councils) MIACO January 2018, ICES is now able to launch its Advice Activities SharePoint site. If you have an ICEC login password, you can try to access it here (I still can't get it to work):

http://community.ices.dk/Advice/advice_activities/default.aspx

They have produced an interim name for the site. Suggestions for alternatives most welcome.

This is an information-giving site where ICES will post news items relating to advisory meetings and other advisory activities. There will be a number of links on the site, allowing users to fast track other sites deemed useful. ICES welcomes suggestions for links to include.

An alert may be created at the page, advising users of any updates made to the site. Please direct any comments and ideas to hgj@ices.dk

The EU BeachCleanUp campaign goes global! 11/9 – 27/10

On the occasion of World Cleanup Day, some 50 EU delegations and representations have been teaming up with NGOs, embassies, schools and volunteer networks to organise beach clean activities across the world.

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/eubeachcleanup-campaign-goes-global_en

Other meetings and news

ICES Baltic cod benchmark data collection meeting 15th -19th Oct, 2018 in ICES HQ.

This concerns both Eastern and Western Baltic cod stocks. Especially for Eastern Baltic cod, all the input data for stock assessment will be settled during the data meeting, thus not intended to be re-opened during the benchmark meeting (4th - 8th February 2019), when the focus will be on assessment modelling and reference points). The acting chair has confirmed that the BSAC will not take part at the data collection meeting.

The 2018 Report of the ICES Workshop on Methods for Stakeholder Involvement in Gear Development (WKMSIGD) is now available on, click here:

[the ICES Library.](#)

This was held on 22-24 May 2018. The first day consisted of a stakeholder workshop held together with the BSAC. Stakeholder groups (fishing industry, scientists and managers) were asked to a) identify the roles of the different stakeholder groups and b) define the risks and problems associated with a more inclusive framework. On the 2nd and 3rd days, there were presentations of different initiatives established in Europe to increase involvement of the industry in the identification, development and testing of selective gears,

discussions around pros and cons of different facets of the initiatives, and the collation of information into the following report. Key recommendations include:

- Stronger leadership from the regional groups is warranted.
- Greater coordination of all ongoing national science-industry gear development initiatives is needed, especially those initiatives that have common fisheries or face similar problems.
- More effort needs to be devoted towards having effective gear solutions implemented into legislation/encouraging their uptake.
- The relaxed implementation and uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the landing obligation has reduced the drive by the industry to develop and test gears. If more clarity were made around the regulation, the exceptions, its implementation and workability of the whole landing obligation, the situation may be different.

The NESUfish project: discussed and presented in Szczecin 12th-13th September 2018

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has initiated a project called NESUfish (Network for Sustainable Baltic Sea Small-scale Fisheries) to promote sustainability of small-scale and coastal fisheries in the Baltic Sea region. The initiative is supported by the Swedish Institute's seed funding program for Baltic Sea Cooperation 2017-2018. The NESUfish project is led by MSC Baltic Sea Region and is carried out in cooperation with five partner organizations: Fisheries Information Center (Estonia), Estonian Fishermen's Association, Latvian Fishermen Federation, West Pomeranian University of Technology Szczecin (Poland) and Low Impact Fishers of Europe-LIFE. So far, networking events have been arranged in Sweden, Latvia and Estonia.

The Szczecin meeting on 12th-13th September 2018 summarised the progress to date, discussed regional-specific issues and presented an update on ongoing project activities. It also explored ideas for follow-up projects. Kari Stange from MSC introduced the project. Katarzyna Janiak from DG MARE presented the 2021-2027 EMFF proposal. The next meeting of the project will take place in Sweden and will aim at drafting the project proposal.

Report from a Marine Stewardship Conference, Warsaw, 25th September 2018

The conference was well attended (approx. 60 participants) by representatives of retailers, fish processors, environmental NGOs, scientific institutions, LIFE, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation. **A short report is attached .**

HELCOM news:

Finland is now chair of the Helsinki Commission – Aiming for an ambitious and feasible Baltic Sea Action Plan

Press release 2nd July 2018

Finland's Chairmanship of the Baltic Sea Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission HELCOM) began at the beginning of July. The key task of the two-year Chairmanship is to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan launched in 2007. Measures should be included that enable to achieve a good environmental status for the Baltic Sea by 2030.

On the Finnish initiative HELCOM will prepare a regional nutrient recycling strategy for the Baltic Sea. The aim of the strategy is that valuable nutrients are in efficient use and prevent them from being lost to waters. Practical measures will be included in the Action Plan to reduce nutrient inputs.

Climate change will maintain, or even increase, eutrophication in the Baltic Sea. It will also have impacts on the distribution of living organisms and attaining the objectives set for the protection. The work of HELCOM must be further strengthened to understand the impacts and minimise harm and damage. Climate change and adaptation will be one of the key issues in updating the Action Plan. HELCOM activities are to be linked to a wider context for work on sustainable development, i.e. implementing of the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

Chairmanship priorities:

<http://www.ym.fi/download/noname/%7BF738AB81-F6DD-41A7-8FD3-67F02A4B3469%7D/138567>

[http://www.ym.fi/en-US/Latest_news/Press_releases/Finland_to_chair_the_Helsinki_Commission\(47287\)](http://www.ym.fi/en-US/Latest_news/Press_releases/Finland_to_chair_the_Helsinki_Commission(47287))

It's about abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear: Regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities with regard to ALDFG: input by 7 September 2018

The HELCOM EN-Marine Litter and the FISH group developed a questionnaire to advance regional work on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). [The request for answers expired on 7th September 2018](#). The first overview of the results will be presented for consideration at the marine litter workshop 9 October 2018 back to back with PRESSURE 9-2018 and then to FISH 9-2018. [We'll catch the dates for that]

Invitation and agenda to the 19th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 19-2018), Copenhagen, Denmark, 7-8 November 2018

19th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 19-2018), Copenhagen, Denmark, 7-8 November 2018

Wednesday, 7 November at 9:00 to Thursday 8 November 2018 by 16:00.

The Meeting will be Chaired by Ms. Heike Imhoff. The Meeting will consider:

- future coordination on the aspects of the revised Commission Decision on Good Environmental Status which require regional cooperation,
- implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan,
- strategic guidance on the future work on HELCOM indicators.

Second Meeting of the HELCOM Intersessional Correspondence Group on Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018) for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018). This will be in Berlin, Germany, at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Krausenstraße 17 – 18, 10117 Berlin), on **7-8 November 2018**.

Third HELCOM Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in Riga, Latvia, 9 October 2018 (WS RAP ML 3-2018)

The HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea report has been recently updated and is now available at:

<http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/BSEP155.pdf>

and an interactive version <http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/>

Based on verified scientific evidence stemming from the HELCOM Second Holistic Assessment Of The Ecosystem Health Of The Baltic Sea (HOLAS II), the report is the most comprehensive baseline currently available on the state of the Baltic Sea – and possibly of any sea in the world.

The report holds a wealth of information about the ecological state of the Baltic Sea and the pressures affecting it, making it an important knowledge tool for both environmental policy makers, academia and Baltic Sea stakeholders, as well as our society at large.

Interested in how to optimize sustainable fishing yields? There are still a few seats available at the symposium in Copenhagen, 10th -11th October, 2018.

This is your chance to meet distinguished key note speakers, and to engage in dialogue with them and other participants about an exciting new approach to optimizing sustainable fisheries yields. Fish stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean are rebuilding, calling for exploitation that ensures ecological, social and economic sustainability. Technically, this calls for exploitation at the level that gives maximum sustainable yield (MSY), but how should this be estimated?

A working group of the Nordic Marine Think Tank has evaluated the question, and will along with invited scientists, stakeholders and managers present and discuss MSY reference points at the symposium at DGI - byen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

For more information about the FMSY project please visit the [project website](#) or the [eventsite](#).

And the BSAC page!:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Symposium-Optimising-sustainable-fishing-yields>

The European Anglers Alliance on cormorants

The next conference of the Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment entitled “Cormorant - management needed across the borders” will take place on the 9th of October in the European Parliament in Brussels.

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/12859/recfishing-forum-conference-cormorant-management-needed-across-the-borders.html>

The Marine Centre based at Simrishamn in southern Sweden is holding some events in the autumn, all of them in Swedish

- **Ideas on plastic: how to reduce output, how to reuse and recycle it: a workshop 26th October 2018**
- **A conference on Baltic fishery 2020:** 15th and 26th November 2018: a platform for exchange of knowledge and dialogue about the development the fishery: the first day deals with seals and ecosystem interactions and the second day looks at how regionalisation can contribute to the management of the Baltic cod fishery in Sweden.

To take part or to find out more, contact Madeleine Lundin at the “Marint Centrum”

<http://www.simrishamn.se/sv/marint-centrum/?action=contact#contactform>

Other information/reading

Presentation by Jan Horbowy, National Maritime Research Institute, Gdynia: density dependence for sprat in the Baltic

The abstract is available on this link and you can find the e mail address to Jan there as well:

<http://www.ices.dk/ layouts/15/ASCProgram/downloadpdf/downloadpdf.ashx?generatepdf=http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/ASC2018/Abstracts/ICESddGrowth.docx>

The sea around Denmark were hit by marine heat waves, 19th September 2018

Up to eight degrees warmer waters than normal. This was how much the hot weather affected the sea during the summer, according to calculations from DTU Aqua.

Mark Payne, DTU Aqua and colleagues from DTU Aqua are conducting research into the impact of climate change on fish and other species of fauna and flora in the sea—both in Denmark and elsewhere in the world—which are also seeing heavy temperature increases.

The calculations they have been doing are the first step towards understanding the importance of marine heat waves to life in the sea around Denmark. The next step is to gather observations of odd or unusual things such as new species, changed behaviour, etc. from—for example—anglers and others. Read the news in English here:

<http://www.dtu.dk/english/news/Nyhed?id=73514332-50F3-4A32-95B5-365278E7B0A5>

Oceana launched interactive platform to calculate benefits of sustainable fishing, 10th September 2018

“Catchy Data” allows users to explore data for European Union countries

A new interactive tool launched today by Oceana explores the potential socio-economic benefits of European Union (EU) countries moving away from current fishing practices. The launch comes ahead of a fisheries seminar organised by the European Commission on 14th September, which marks the start of discussions on fishing limits in 2019 for the Baltic, Deep-sea and Atlantic/North Sea fish stocks.

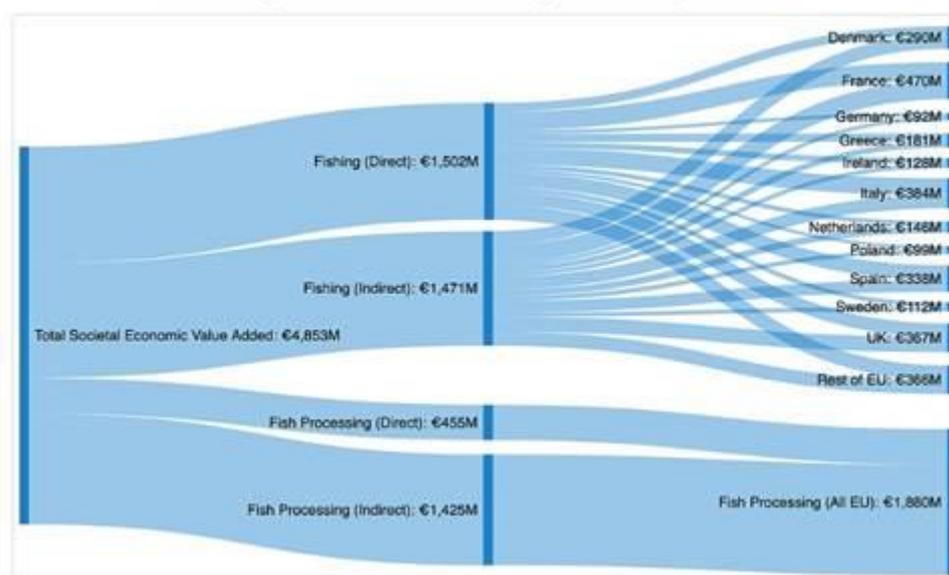
“Catchy Data” offers users for the first time estimates for each individual EU country, the results of rebuilding stocks and fishing at sustainable levels; how much catches of the key commercial species could increase, how many jobs could be created, potential net profits, gains for related industries, etc.

The data allows users to explore on their own, data that demonstrates that if the European Union were to fish sustainably we could in less than ten years fish almost 60% more, boost EU’s GDP by nearly 5 billion euros and create more than 90,000 jobs.

“This is the first time that the economic and social benefits of rebuilding European fisheries are calculated for each EU country in such a comprehensive way,” said Lasse Gustavsson, Executive Director of Oceana in Europe.

“With this new site, Oceana aims to empower interested stakeholders by making fisheries data easily accessible and clear but also to expand the understanding of the potential impact of ending overfishing,” Gustavsson explained.

Breaking it down: EU Fishing, Status quo to MSY



The site is built on data originally from a [study](#) commissioned by Oceana in 2017 to research the socio-economic implications of fishing at sustainable levels in Europe. The study showed that if EU fisheries were sustainably managed, in addition to improving the health of our oceans, there would be substantial economic benefits in the form of boosted GDP and added jobs.

Oceana has continuously urged EU-decision makers to give up the short-term approach of setting unsustainable fish catch limits and instead take urgent action to put an end to overfishing in European waters once and for all. The “Catchy Data” tool has been launched in advance of the Seminar on Fisheries Science [Seminar on Fisheries Science](#) by the European Commission (Brussels, 14th September), an event that marks the beginning of discussions on 2019 catch limits for the Baltic, Deep-sea and Atlantic/North Sea stocks.

Online version of this press release: <https://bit.ly/2wTxBmD>

<https://eu.oceana.org/en/catchy-data>

What is the Global Footprint of Fishing? Global Fishing Watch

Is it 4% or is it 55% ? Or

This is a new partnership between Oceana, SkyTruth, and Google.

It was developed in 2016 as a way to track fishing boats around the world. The core data comes from boats’ automatic identification system (AIS), a GPS system that pings out its location every 30 seconds to satellites. Most large boats around the world (not just fishing boats) are required to have AIS onboard for monitoring

purposes and safety. Global Fishing Watch collects AIS data on all boats around the world to “determine the type of ship (e.g., cargo, tug, sail, fishing), its size, what kind of fishing gear (e.g. longline, purse seine, trawl) it’s using, and where and when it’s fishing based on its movement patterns.”

Cool new data show that 4% of the ocean is directly fished, and if you assume a 0.5° x 0.5° cell is representative of ecosystem impact, 55% of the ocean is ‘affected’ by fishing.

<https://sustainablefisheries-uw.org/global-footprint-of-fishing/>

This was also reported on in The Economist on 6th September 2018 under the heading The fight against illicit fishing is moving into space – not on the 4% 55% bit, but on the potential for monitoring the IUU fishing

And Europêche also reported on it on 7th September 2018

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/228427/science-reveals-that-less-than-425-of-the-global-ocean-is-fished>

Seas at Risk: Maintaining the EU ban on subsidies for the construction of new fishing vessels, 27th September 2018

On 18 September, 40 NGOs across Europe (including Seas At Risk and some of its members) sent a letter to Commissioners Karmenu Vella and Cecilia Malmström, calling on the European Commission to refrain from providing financial aid for the construction of new fishing vessels in nine European outermost regions belonging to France, Portugal and Spain. Reporting here:

<http://www.seas-at-risk.org/16-fisheries/914-40-environmental-ngos-ask-european-commission-to-halt-reintroduction-of-harmful-fisheries-subsidies.html>

See the letter here:

http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/letter_to_vella_and_malmstrom_on_fishing_subsidies_final.pdf

Food security and safety in fisheries governance – A case study on the Baltic

Sent to us by Søren Anker Pedersen, Marine Ingredients

The Abstract says that one of the objectives of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is to increase the contribution of fisheries to fish food availability and self-sufficiency. The use of the catch is often a secondary concern in fisheries governance and management, the focus being on harvesting. This paper examines how the use of forage fish for human consumption can be increased within the limits of sustainability, using Baltic herring as a case study. Baltic herring contains high levels of dioxins and human consumption is very low: catches mostly used for industrial purposes. The paper uses a participatory backcasting exercise to define a desirable future vision for the use of Baltic herring catch and to develop pathways of actor-specific governance actions to increase the use of the fish as a safe-to-eat food. Results reveal that increasing the contribution of forage fish, such as Baltic herring, to food security entails a paradigm shift in fisheries governance that involves 1) inclusion of well-defined objectives for catch use in the EU CFP and the related regional multiannual plans, 2) broadening the scope of the MSY-driven governance and management to one that addresses catch use, and 3) proactive catch use governance.

Marine Ingredients comments on this and has a link to the article on its website, here:

“The Baltic Herring and the dioxin problem”

http://www.maring.org/sild_and_dioxin/

Denmark and Sweden decide to remove the MSC label on western Baltic herring (also applying to Skagerrak and Kattegat)

It’s a voluntary move, the report (in Danish) on the MSC Denmark website.

From 21st September 2018

<https://www.msc.org/dk/mediecenter/pressemeddelelser/dansk-og-svensk-fiskeri-vaelger-at-suspendere-baeredygtigt-sildefiskeri>

Europeche on more fish: Scientists see evidence of major progress in European fisheries

39 % more fish in the sea than in 2003 -

Europêche has welcomed the clear message from the scientific community and DG MARE Director General, Mr Aguiar Machado, at Friday's "Scientific Seminar on Fisheries Science" organised by the European Commission. The scientific data presented evidenced in the North East Atlantic a drastic reduction in fishing pressure which is now stabilizing at sustainable levels. As a consequence, overexploited stocks decreased by 43% in the last decade and the proportion of stocks outside safe biological limits dropped by more than half during the same period. Fish populations have been generally increasing, reaching in 2016 biomass levels 39% higher than in 2003. The seminar also reviewed fisheries science challenges such as integrating socio-economic advice, multispecies management transition, climate change consequences and insufficient data processing. See here:

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/284f648a-7fac-4e27-a20e-ceea9002a6a1>

News from Brussels: a newsletter from the Danish Fishermen PO

This is a new newsletter produced by Thomas Wenzel Kruse, based a few days of the week in Brussels and reporting on the latest news and events related to the EU's fisheries policy and seen through Danish eyes, In newsletter number three, he writes about the ICES advice for the Baltic and what it means in numbers for the stocks, about the Commission's proposal for revised control regulation, about work with the technical measures proposal, the Swedish proposal for closed areas in the Kattegat, about the Landing Obligation and full implementation in 2019 and what it means for choke species, and about Brexit.

If you want to receive this newsletter regularly, contact:

Thomas Wenzel Kruse tk@dkfisk.dk

We did offer to do a short translation of the newsletter

Read Ray Hilborn: Losing grounds: self- report or report by force

Article from 20th September 2018, National Fisherman

He writes that effective lobbying by anti-fishing NGOs leading to public concern about the environmental impacts of fishing, are leading to increasing restrictions on commercial fishing far beyond any regulation needed to assure the sustainability of the fishery. Commercial fishing as a livelihood and economic activity is under threat in much of the world

There is a direct link to the article:

<https://www.nationalfisherman.com/viewpoints/national-international/losing-grounds-self-report-or-report-by-force/>

The Danish fisheries sector and marine waste – an article by the Danish Fishermen's Organization PO

Link to the article:

<http://cnogear.org/news/english/danish-fisheries-sector-and-marine-waste> (in English)

<http://cnogear.org/news/nordiske-sprak/dansk-fiskeri-og-marint-affald> (in Danish)

WWF Press release 13th September 2018

WWF World Bird Foundation, BirdLife Sweden, WWF

The World Nation Fund Denmark, Greenpeace Norden and Oceana Europe write about the bilateral meeting which took place on 14th September 2018 between Sweden and Denmark and the EU Commission DG Environment and DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Sweden's proposal for fisheries regulations in marine Natura 2000 areas in Kattegatt, presented in January 2018, is being discussed.

The aim is to arrive at common recommendations for fishing in these areas.

The Swedish proposal includes fisheries regulations in the areas of Stora Middelgrund and Röde Bank, Morup Bank, Lilla Middelgrund and the Flat. These marine Natura 2000 areas are also designated by OSPAR and HELCOM as marine protected areas with high levels protection values. The proposal is to divide the marine Natura 2000 areas into a part with total fishing ban, as well as another part where it can only be fished with tools that have less impact on ecosystem. The aim is to promote improved seabed environment, and contribute to the protection of predatory fish and by-catches such as porpoises and seabirds.

The NSAC has produced a consensus advice on the Swedish proposal, see here:

<http://nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/10-1718-Swedish-Proposal-for-Management-Measures-in-MPAs.pdf>

You can also see Sweden's consultation document for marine spatial planning in Kattegat, Skagerrak and Gulf of Bothnia here:

<https://www.envir.ee/sites/default/files/proposal-for-the-marine-spatial-plan-skagerrak-and-kattegat.pdf>

Article in Science Direct: Basin-scale distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea provides basis for effective conservation actions

Abstract: Knowledge on spatial and seasonal distribution of species is crucial when designing protected areas and implementing management actions. The Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) population is critically endangered, and its distribution is virtually unknown. Here, we used passive acoustic monitoring and species distribution models to describe the spatial and seasonal distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Proper. Porpoise click detectors were deployed over a systematic grid of 297 stations in eight countries from April 2011 through July 2013. Generalized additive models were used to describe the monthly probability of detecting porpoise clicks as a function of spatially-referenced covariates and time. During the reproductive season, two main areas of high probability of porpoise detection were identified. One of those areas, situated on and around the offshore banks in the Baltic Proper, is clearly separated from the known distribution range of the Belt Sea population during breeding season, suggesting this is an important breeding ground for the Baltic Proper population. We commend the designation of this area as a marine protected area and recommend Baltic Sea countries to also protect areas in the southern Baltic Sea and the Hanö Bight where additional important harbour porpoise habitats were identified. Further conservation measures should be carried out based on analyses of overlap between harbour porpoise distribution and potentially harmful anthropogenic activities. Our study shows that large-scale systematic monitoring using novel techniques can give important insights on the distribution of low-density populations, and that international cooperation is pivotal when studying transnationally migratory species. Read here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717307929>

LIFE: Low Impact Fishers of Europe

News from the deck July-August 2018

http://lifepatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Newsletter_July-August_EN.pdf

From European Transport Workers' Federation

Please find attached the statement of the international trade union federations and labour organisations (the ITF, FRN, SERC, TLSC, the ITUC and the AFL-CIO) on the necessary steps that the Thai government shall take in order to improve the working conditions in its fisheries industry. Currently, despite certain efforts the situation of the workers in the Thai fisheries is still far from acceptable.

The statement is also available at <http://www.itfglobal.org/en/news-events/press-releases/2018/september/joint-statement-to-royal-thai-government-on-ilo-convention-188-ratification/>

CCB: Joint NGO recommendations on Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2019, 24th September 2018

In October 2018, EU fisheries ministers are scheduled to agree on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2019. The following text outlines the joint NGO recommendations on Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2019 in the context of EU fisheries legislation, scientific advice on catch limits and the sharing of stocks with third countries.

<https://ccb.se/2018/09/joint-ngo-recommendations-on-baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-for-2019/>

From Fish Sec on LIFE's proposal for the recovery of Baltic cod

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

<https://www.fishsec.org/2018/09/11/fishermen-propose-concrete-measures-to-revive-baltic-cod/>

Discardless: save the date: 30th January 2019

This is the day a book telling the story about the Discardless project and its results will be published. Clara Ulrich, DTU Aqua and coordinator of this international project which has been running since the introduction of the landing obligation, following developments, coordinating gear trials and developments, disseminating results, experience and best practices etc, recently gave a short lecture about the project and its findings. She informed that they're in the process of writing a book about the project and it will be made public at a meeting at DTU Aqua, DTU in Lyndby, Denmark on 30th January 2018. Follow:

<http://www.discardless.eu/>

Baltic Sea 2020 has written a fisheries brief: Responsibility rests with the fisheries ministers

This is the ninth in the series of BS2020's briefs and is written in anticipation of the Fisheries Council 15th16th October 2018:

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/442-fisheries-brief-no-9-responsibility-rests-with-the-fishery-ministers>

Clean Nordic Oceans news about cleaning the oceans!



Clean Nordic Oceans

The Danish fisheries sector and marine waste – an article by the Danish Fishermen's Organization PO

Link to the article:

<http://cnogear.org/news/english/danish-fisheries-sector-and-marine-waste> (in English)

<http://cnogear.org/news/nordiske-sprak/dansk-fiskeri-og-marint-affald> (in Danish)

The annual Norwegian retrieval survey for lost fishing gear along the Norwegian coast is well underway and will continue until the end of September. See pictures and read a short recap at www.CNOgear.org

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/retrieval-survey-is-well-underway>