

Happy New year to members and readers. Let's hope for a proper get-together sooner, rather than later, in 2021.

We always ask members for contributions to this newsletter. We didn't hear from anyone. Members: we have a look at your websites for relevant news, especially Baltic related, and we include it here. It would be nice if YOU let us have any news before end of February 2021 if you want it to be included.

### **BSAC news and meetings**

The BSAC has had a busy year since it started and looks forward to an important year:

#### **2021 is election year for the BSAC**

At its annual General Assembly in 2021, the BSAC will elect a new Honorary Chair of the General Assembly, a new Executive Committee, as well as a new Chair and Vice-chair of the Executive Committee. The Chairs of the three Working Groups will be invited to confirm renewal of their office, since they will have served the first 3-year term from the maximum 3 terms, as laid down by the Rules of Procedure. The rapporteur-information assistant has confirmed that she will extend her contract with the BSAC for 2021-2022.

The Management Team has already noted with disappointment that the Honorary Chair Steve Karnicki will not stand for re-election. Steve is planning to conclude his over 60 year-long professional career. He will continue as an observer to the BSAC for his own interest. All members have been informed.

At the moment, there is no date for the General Assembly, and due to the current situation with COVID, it is uncertain whether this can be a physical meeting.

#### **The Pelagic Working Group met on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020: stickleback and western herring on the menu**

The report was finalised and approved:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Pelagic-Working-Group>

Please note that a BSAC proposal for a trial stickleback fishery was sent for consideration and adoption at the ExCom meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It was adopted and will be sent to the Commission and Baltic Member States asap.

#### **The BSAC Management Team meeting met on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The Management Group discussed current work and coming meetings. The report was sent to the ExCom for information.

#### **The external evaluation of the BSAC and meeting with the Management Team 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The MT met with Oxford Research to hear about the finalisation of their external evaluation report on the BSAC: This report was presented to ExCom on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It prompted a lively discussion and was adopted. The report will be disseminated.

#### **The BSAC meeting to deal with EU's Framework Technical Measures Regulation: BSAC meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The Commission has to report on the functioning of the EU's Technical Measures Regulation which entered into force in 2019. Part of the process is to ask stakeholders how it's functioning, with a detailed questionnaire. This meeting to deal with the questionnaire was well attended. The deadline for reply to the Commission is 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The draft will be adopted by the ExCom by written procedure. The WG chair Michael Andersen gave a brief update at the ExCom.

## **The BSAC is producing input to a future Common Fisheries Policy - it started back in 2019**

### **Further work on CFP reform 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021**

#### **Group 1 the living conditions for fish and address ecosystem-based management (Chair Nils) Tuesday 19th January 2021**

The WG chair Nils gave a brief update at the January ExCom meeting. He pointed out that the aim of the meeting was to exchange views on future marine management. The Focus Group highlighted two approaches to defining EBM management: a broader approach as provided by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, taking all elements into account to ensure good environmental status for the benefit of fish and fisheries, and a narrower one of the CFP (its Basic Regulation, Article 4) which is more about managing fisheries, but in relation to the elements from the environment which affect fisheries. The Group tried to reconcile both approaches. The Focus Group agreed that it is important to have an adaptive and fast decision-making process at regional level. Fisheries management should follow rapid changes in the ecosystem. The interactions between sea uses should be taken into account in the fisheries management. Moreover, decisions need to be brought together: this means TACs and quotas, technical measures, as well as environmental and other interactions (mammals, birds, fish, energy etc). Concrete ideas will be put into the BSAC white paper on the CFP, and which will be developed over the coming months.

The next two meetings are planned:

#### **Group 2 scientific advice, landing obligation, MSY, overall management principles. (Chair Michael) Tuesday 2nd February 2021**

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Future-Common-Fisheries-Policy-Session-2>

#### **Group 3 decision making, regionalisation, recreational fisheries and subsidies. (Chair Mart) Tuesday 9th February 2021**

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Future-Common-Fisheries-Policy-Session-3>

### **Talking control and enforcement: The Management Team met with European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

EFCA gave a power point presentation of the different activities in its Baltic Joint Deployment Programme for 2020 and informed of what is envisaged for 2021. COVID has had an impact on their work. EFCA confirmed participation at the ExCom to make a presentation on JDP activities 2020-2021. and the forthcoming CFP Group meetings in February 2021. The ExCom was informed.

### **That Executive Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - a busy meeting**

The ExCom adopted the estimated budget and Work Programme for 2021-2022, so these can be sent to the Commission as soon as possible. Another important item was the presentation of the external evaluation of the BSAC, carried out by the Copenhagen based consultancy Oxford Research. It was well received by several BSAC members and by DG Mare, who took part at the meeting. There was discussion on how to use the recommendations to improve the performance of the BSAC, and how to strengthen regionalisation. The European Control Agency EFCA visited the BSAC to present an update on its Joint Deployment Programme in the Baltic. The BALTFISH Presidency also took part and gave an update of its work and work programme. Recommendation for a trial fishery in the Baltic was adopted. And what about a rebuilding plan for western Baltic herring? This is a challenge, made more complicated by the fact that management of western Baltic spring spawning herring is part of the overall management of herring going into the North Sea and stocks and together with third countries – which are now Norway and the UK. The BSAC ExCom took note of the fact that this is a challenge and won't be solved in the near future. A report from the ExCom meeting will follow. The presentations made by EFCA and Oxford Research are on the website:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-\(3\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-(3))

## BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

### **The BALTFISH-DTU Aqua-BSAC Workshop on Selectivity 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

This workshop was all about developing gears which allow a fishery for flatfish, whilst at the same time minimise bycatch of cod. It showcased research going on in Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

The presentations made at the workshop and the report are on the website now:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Workshop-on-Technical-solutions-to-reduce-unwanted>

### **Cod avoidance**

At the BSAC ExCom on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the BALTFISH informed that a Joint Recommendation on roofless gear (to enable escape of cod, but retention of plaice) is in the pipeline.

### **Harbour porpoise and mitigation measures to minimise accidental bycatch**

BALTFISH sent its Joint Recommendation to the Commission on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. BALTFISH plans to hold a meeting of its BALTFISH technical working group to further discuss the draft Joint Recommendation, in particular specific mitigation measures and areas of their application, as well as control. We haven't put the Joint Recommendations on the website, but they've been sent to the BSAC members, and can be obtained from the Secretariat.

## Commission news and meetings

### **The annual meeting of all the Advisory Councils with DG Mare was 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

It focused on how to improve the functioning of the Advisory Councils. A report will follow. Meanwhile, here's the presentation made by the BSAC ExCom chair at the meeting on improving functioning of the ACs (examples from the BSAC):

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

### **Consultation time**

#### **Consultation on zero pollution**

A public consultation on Zero Pollution is available under the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12588-EU-Action-Plan-Towards-a-Zero-Pollution-Ambition-for-air-water-and-soil>

The consultation runs until 10<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Commission public consultation for 3 interlinked policy initiatives:**

- the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020;
- the application of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species;
- the Impact Assessment that will underpin the Commission's proposal for binding EU nature restoration targets.

Follow this link to contribute to the consultation's questionnaire:

Feedback period runs between 11 January 2021 and 05 April 2021.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12596-Protecting-biodiversity-nature-restoration-targets/public-consultation>

### **EUMOFA – complete a short survey and help EUMOFA improve its services**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

EUMOFA is conducting a brief online survey about its services. The survey will provide a better understanding of the users' needs and expectations and help to improve EUMOFA services.

By completing the survey, you will help EUMOFA get closer to stakeholders and continue its path to become the backbone of the market intelligence services for the fishery and aquaculture sector.

The survey is anonymous and in compliance with the GDPR (visit [EUMOFA](#) for more information)

### **EUMOFA reports on smoked eel**

This is about price structure in the supply chain for smoked eel in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. It starts with an overview of eel, production, trade flows and prices. Then focuses on the three named countries:

[https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/429372/PTAT+smoked+eel\\_final.pdf/a9d90d2c-5ea8-47d7-9e0c-48b6c8783e08?t=1611570255440](https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/429372/PTAT+smoked+eel_final.pdf/a9d90d2c-5ea8-47d7-9e0c-48b6c8783e08?t=1611570255440)

## **European Parliament news and meetings**

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

The January newsletter lists all the dossiers, reports, opinions currently ongoing:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/220205/Trawler%20January%202021.pdf>

It reports from the PECH Committee 25+26 January 2021. There was a vote on the Fisheries Control Regulation: given the enormous amount of amendments to this proposal, voting on this will be in two stages. And it reports that at last, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) was finally closed in December 2020. See the news here:

### **Get used to the new abbreviation: “EMFAF”: 6.1 billion EUR for sustainable fisheries and safeguarding fishing communities**

04/12/2020 EU legislators reached a provisional agreement on how EU countries will be able to spend funds allocated to fisheries and aquaculture for 2021-2027. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the period 2021-2027 amounts to 6.1 billion EUR (6.108 billion EUR in current prices). 5.3 billion EUR will be allocated for the management of fisheries, aquaculture and fishing fleets, while the remaining sum will cover measures such as scientific advice, controls and checks, market intelligence, maritime surveillance and security. Member states will have to spend at least 15% of the money on efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In line with the Green Deal, actions under the fund will contribute to the overall budget objective to dedicate 30% of funds to climate action.

**Please note some agreed measures:** - **Engines can be replaced or modernised** under strict conditions: for vessels between 12 and 24 meters and at least five years old, the new or modernised engine must not have more power in kW and a reduction of 20% CO2 emissions must be ensured; the fishing capacity withdrawn due to engine replacement or modernisation cannot be replaced.

**Compensation for fishermen** If fishermen's activities cease permanently, they can be supported to scrap or decommission a vessel. In order to receive compensation, the equivalent fishing capacity is permanently removed from the EU fishing fleet register and the beneficiary must not register any fishing vessel within five years of receiving support. If fishing activities cease temporarily, fishermen may be granted compensation for a maximum duration of 12 months per vessel or per fisherman during the programming period.

**Next steps:** Parliament and Council are now expected to endorse the agreement. The provisions of the regulation will then apply as of 1 January 2021.

### **Calendar of coming PECH meetings:**

1<sup>st</sup> February

5<sup>th</sup> February

22<sup>nd</sup> February

23<sup>rd</sup> February

## EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

### **EFCA held a meeting with the BSAC: more on the meeting under BSAC news**

Just to remind that EFCA made a presentation to the BSAC at the ExCom meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 on its activities with the Joint Deployment Programme 2020 and what's planned for 2021.

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-\(3\)/EFCABSAC-presentation-on-SAL-ELE-20012021.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-(3)/EFCABSAC-presentation-on-SAL-ELE-20012021.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

EFCA has agreed to hold a meeting with the BSAC in May (virtual) to deal with current control and monitoring issues in the Baltic. Date to follow .....

## News from other ACs

### **The Advisory Councils met ICES (MIAC), and all stakeholders met ICES on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (MIACO).**

The BSAC report is here:

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

### **Meeting between ICES and Advisory Councils MIAC**

The ExCom chair and the WG chairs took part at this and informed of three issues of importance to the BSAC: stickleback, western Baltic spring spawning herring and ecosystem overviews.

#### **Actions points relevant to the BSAC:**

**On stickleback:** There is a proposal by ICES to hold a Workshop to explore the ecological consequences and commercial opportunities offered by the outbreak of stickleback. This may take place in 2022 and will be open to AC participants. It will focus on the synthesis of available science. BSAC will follow progress in this regard and contribute as much as possible.

**On Western Baltic Spring Spawning Herring:** Based on 2020 advice, WBSSH not expected to rebuild above  $b_{lim}$  before 2023. Following a successful WKREBUILD workshop in 2020, ICES is developing ToRs for WKREBUILD2, which still requires approval. This meeting may take place in Autumn 2021. This work interlinks into a number of initiatives looking at reference points and productivity issues. A workshop on reference points is provisionally planned for 2022. BSAC to monitor developments in this regard and contribute as / when possible.

**On ecosystem considerations:** ICES doesn't have sufficient data flow, so BSAC should liaise with HELCOM on ecosystem considerations on coastal fisheries data. BSAC to consider the research shared by ICES within the meeting (<https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/74/6/1708/2629217?login=true>) as 'food for thought' for additional consideration of the issue in future MIAC discussions.

### **Meeting between ICES and Advisory Councils and other Observers MIACO**

The BSAC Chair, the Demersal WG Chair, EBM WG Chair and Krzysztof Stanuch (Polish National Chamber of Fish Producers). Special thanks to Krzysztof Stanuch for reporting....

## Other meetings and news of activities

### **EFARO: European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 EFARO held a webinar to learn about sustainable and circular food production at sea

<https://www.efaro.eu/>

A report is here:

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

### **MARE Foundation on dangerous shipwrecks 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Shipwrecks are dangerous, no doubt about that - also in the Baltic. This was the second conference, held by MARE. Well-attended and with information from activities going on in different parts of the world to deal with the problem. The conference was part of the project on dangerous shipwrecks run by the MARE Foundation since 2018. The Foundation had run a media campaign and collected over 65,000 signatures in support of its petition to prevent oil leakage from shipwrecks. An expedition to the Franken shipwreck was conducted in 2018. Over 150 participants took part in the conference. There were several presentations related to oil leakages from shipwrecks. Leakages of oil and other hazardous substances from shipwrecks are one of the potential threats to the marine environment. This problem concerns not only the Baltic region, but the whole world. The greatest potential threat is posed by ships sunk during World War I and II.

This issue gives more and more causes for concern every day and is starting to be addressed more seriously in many regions of the world. According to the data held by the Naval Hydrographic Office in Gdynia, there are over 415 wrecks in Polish internal sea waters alone, of which about 100 are located in the Gulf of Gdańsk. And that is just the tip of the iceberg of the problem. .

The MARE Foundation published **the General Methodology of Oil Removal Operations on Baltic Shipwrecks** that serves as a wreck management programme for Poland and is to a large extent based on the Environmental Desk-Based Assessment method used in United Kingdom and on the VRAKA risk assessment methodology developed in Sweden. The BSAC Secretariat took part and drafted a report.

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

### **ICES and science**

#### **ICES New year and new leaders: four new steering group chairs share their visions:**

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

In 2021, ICES welcomes four new steering group chairs - and one new steering group. Joël Vigneau takes over as Chair of the Ecosystem Observations Steering Group, Steven Degraer as Chair of the Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics Steering Group, Debbi Pedreschi as Chair of the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Steering Group, and Jens Rasmussen as Chair of the new Data Science and Technology Steering Group.

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/SGchairs2021.aspx>

#### **ICES and UK sign a Memorandum of Understanding**

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

ICES will provide scientific advice to the government of the United Kingdom on fishing opportunities, including information on the state of marine ecosystems and the impact of human activities.

ICES has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of the United Kingdom (UK). With this, ICES will provide the UK with scientific information and advice relating to the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas. The agreement includes annual advice on fishing opportunities, as well as information on the state of marine ecosystems and the impacts of human activities. The UK may also request ICES advice on an ad hoc basis.

#### **Don't forget the ICES fisheries overviews and ecosystem overviews**

For the Baltic, we've put links to the latest updated versions on the BSAC website under News [www.bsac.dk](http://www.bsac.dk)

#### **European Eel ICES WKFEA on eel 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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

The various objectives of WKFEA are to:

- To identify relevant end-users of the ICES advice

- Scope the needs for advice and the concepts with the requesters, in order to determine the feasibility for requesters to meet their management objectives.

They have identified the Advisory Councils as a potential user of the advice. So they would like to get feedback on the advice and receive your recommendations for its improvement which they will evaluate during the WKFEA online meeting to be held between 1 and 5 February next week. They asked for feedback by Friday 29th January 2021.

The questionnaire is available here:

<https://forms.gle/ScVYS3eDHCx9X58PA>

### **ICES stakeholder workshop on bottom fishing 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

This is to review the suite of management options identified to reduce the impacts of bottom fishing on seabed habitats in EU waters and to assess the fisheries consequences of these options. The WK will identify additional management options that could be considered along with criteria for the evaluation and prioritisation of all options. The participants will be asked to provide feedback on the practical implementation of the different options. ICES welcomes participation of NGOs, fisheries representatives and governmental/management organizations. The workshop will be chaired by Josefine Egekvist and Jan Hiddink (in CC) and take place online Thursday (March 4) and Friday (March 5). The outcome of the stakeholder workshop will be reviewed and evaluated in a subsequent technical workshop and used in trade-off analysis between fisheries and seafloor habitats, i.e. overall benefit to the seafloor, relative to loss in revenue/contribution margin, for the prioritized management options identified. The trade-off analysis will be undertaken for different EU marine ecoregions and sub-regions. These assessments will inform managers about the interlinkages, and therefore trade-offs, between fishing footprints, benthic impacts and the landings, revenue and contribution margin of the fisheries.

More information on the workshop and the registration can be found here:

<http://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WKTRADE3.aspx>

### **Defending a PhD on liver worm in cod Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 10.00**

Researcher at DTU Aqua Marie Plambech Ryberg (she's been to the BSAC) defended her PhD about liver worm in cod on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021. She's studied how infections caused by liver worm are connected with physiological and nutritional condition of cod:

<https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/-/media/Institutter/Aqua/Nyheder/2021-filer/Popular-science-summary-Marie-P-Ryberg.ashx?la=da&hash=D257977D9207614CAB9AA1271309126DA3B0E3DC>

The Danish news and contact details to Marie and her supervisor Jane Behrens are here:

<https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/Nyhed?id=%7bC65B13EA-0B28-42A8-A7DC-9150CED63410%7d>

A short BSAC report from the Defence is here:

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

### **More on cod – it's in a bad way in the Baltic - and near collapse**

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

That's the headline in the Danish newsletter Fiskerforum, reporting from an article from 26.1.21 from Danmarks Radio. They've interviewed a leading scientist at DTU Aqua, who states that lack of oxygen, liver worm and starvation are affecting the cod in the eastern Baltic; things have got so bad that they don't think it can be saved. Read Fiskerforum in Danish:

<https://fiskerforum.dk/torsken-har-det-rigtig-skidt-i-oestersoen-taet-paa-kollaps/>

The article, highlights seals and seal worm as one major problem, and it links to an article from 2015 (!) in Videnskab.dk. Scientist Kurt Bachmann referred to the liver worm as a problem, also for humans:

<https://videnskab.dk/miljo-naturvidenskab/parasitorme-fra-saeler-i-bekymrende-vaekst>

And you can click your way to the article in English:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00436-014-4306-x>

**Then read the article from Danmarks Radio: „Cod is fighting for its life in the Baltic and I don't think we can save it”**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Interviewed by DR, Senior scientist Stefan Neuenfeldt says that they don't think they can save the cod stock, but they do think that they can help it survive so that in 10-15 years it can get a new chance in the Baltic which by then may be easier to live in. He highlights the following: lack of oxygen (lack of inflows), seals are spreading the liver worm to the cod, fishing (bottom trawling) is disturbing the sea bed (a problem pointed out in the article by Thomas Kirk Sørensen, WWF). How to help it survive?

Stefan Neuenfeldt says to: reduce nutrients from agriculture and land use, and create protected areas with zero commercial and recreational fishing.

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/viden/natur/torskene-kaemper-livet-i-oestersoen-jeg-tror-ikke-vi-kan-naa-redde-dem>

**Baltic Sea Research and Development BONUS is starting up 2021 and moving to a new level: BANOS**

This is going to be joint Baltic and North Sea Research and Innovation

The newsletter looks at some of the achievements of BONUS and then moves towards the next chapter with BANOS and HORIZON Europe

[https://www.bonusportal.org/publications/e-bulletin/a/e-bulletin\\_138\\_18.1.2021](https://www.bonusportal.org/publications/e-bulletin/a/e-bulletin_138_18.1.2021)

**HELCOM**

**Outcome of the First Meeting of the Drafting Group for the revision of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (DG RAP ML 1-2021), online, 20-21 January 2021**

The Outcome of the First Meeting of the Drafting Group for the revision of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (DG RAP ML 1-2021), online, 20-21 January 2021, as well as the meeting documents and presentation have been published at the HELCOM Meeting Portal

**HELCOM stakeholders conference 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 “Practically Implementing Ecosystem-Based Management”**

In a bid to advance the implementation of ecosystem-based management in the Baltic Sea region, HELCOM has teamed up with Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) to organize the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2021 “Practically Implementing Ecosystem-Based Management” (HSC2021) that will be held on 11 March 2021 in the format of a one-day online workshop.

Registration is open to all, and available seats will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. Registration will close on 26 February 2021 or when no more seats are available.

General information, programme and registration: <https://helcom.fi/hsc2021>

Information sheet (PDF): <https://helcom.fi/media/documents/HSC2021-info-sheet.pdf>

**HELCOM FISH 12A-2021 on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, on-line**

The intersessional Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 12A-2021) will be organised on **2 and 4 March 2021**. In light of the COVID-19s situation, the Meeting will be held as an online meeting. The Meeting will take place at **9 CET/10 EET- 16 CET/17 EET on Tuesday, 2 March** and at **9 CET/10 EET- 16 CET/17 EET on Wednesday, 4 March 2021**. You can register at the **HELCOM meeting portal**.

**HELCOM FISH-PRO III 3-2021 on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The Third Meeting of the Continuation of the Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management (FISH-PRO III 3-2021), will be held online via Zoom, on **23-25 March 2021**. The Meeting will start on **Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 10:00 EET** and is expected to end on **Thursday 25 March 2021 by 15:00 EET**.

### **HELCOM FISH 13-2021 on 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> April 2021, on-line**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 13-2021) will be organised on **20-21 April 2021**. In light of the COVID-19s situation, the Meeting will be held as an online meeting. The Meeting will start at **9 CET/10 EET on Tuesday, 20 April** and is expected to terminate by **16 CET/17 EET on Wednesday, 21 April 2021**. You can register at the **HELCOM meeting portal**.

Tonnes of other things going on at HELCOM: [www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

## **Other information/reading**

### **EU Maritime & Fish On microalgae**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

In addition to being used as a source of highly nutritious food, macroalgae also serve as a feedstock for pharmaceuticals, bioplastics, fertilisers and biofuels. Macroalgae are a perfect match for the long-term growth strategy, the European Green Deal. Learn about algae production in European Atlas of the Seas' maps:

[bit.ly/3sBMnd2](https://bit.ly/3sBMnd2)

### **One Planet summit: Leaders take action**

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

In Paris, France, world leaders have highlighted the destruction of nature as increasing the risk of future pandemics at the One Planet Summit for Biodiversity, at which they kick-started action on biodiversity ahead of critical environment talks.

Leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres met largely virtually for the event, which was hosted by the French government, UN and World Bank.

Link:

<https://www.oneplanetsummit.fr/en>

### **The Fisheries Secretariat**

New Year Newsletter

A not so happy new year for fish stocks

[https://mailchi.mp/fishsec.org/missed-deadlines-a-not-so-happy-new-year-for-fishstocks?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/fishsec.org/missed-deadlines-a-not-so-happy-new-year-for-fishstocks?e=[UNIQID])

### **The Fisheries Secretariat on eel: More on December Council: Roll-over of three month fishing closures for eel**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

Roll-over of three-month fishing closures for eel – The Fisheries Secretariat (fishsec.org)

On 17<sup>th</sup> December the EU fisheries ministers decided to set around one third of the Atlantic fishing quotas for 2021 managed exclusively by the EU above the sustainable limits advised by scientists. And the Mediterranean will remain the most overfished sea in the world.

Fisheries ministers continue overfishing in breach of EU law – The Fisheries Secretariat (fishsec.org)

### **WWF – ghost net application**

WWF Germany developed the innovative "WWF Ghostdiver" app that allows divers or fishermen to actively participate in the search for ghost nets.

WWF - Ghostnets (ghostdiver.com)

## **Gone fishing - in Denmark**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

In these COVID times many things are closed, but not nature. A new website has been created to give information on where in Denmark the good places to fish are – for recreational + sports fishermen, as well as families and tourists. This is part of a national strategy for sports fishing in Denmark which was started in 2018. Here's the news in Danish:

[https://fvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/traek-en-gammel-sweater-paa-ny-hjemmeside-skal-faa-danskerne-ud-at-fiske/?utm\\_campaign=trk-en-gammel-sweater-p---ny-hjemmeside-skal-f-danskerne-ud-at-fiske&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=fvm\\_nyhedsmail](https://fvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/traek-en-gammel-sweater-paa-ny-hjemmeside-skal-faa-danskerne-ud-at-fiske/?utm_campaign=trk-en-gammel-sweater-p---ny-hjemmeside-skal-f-danskerne-ud-at-fiske&utm_medium=email&utm_source=fvm_nyhedsmail)

And here's the new website called „fishing in Denmark”, even though it's all in Danish:

<https://fishingindenmark.info/>

There's an interactive map so you can click on the dots around Denmark and get more information on what you can fish there, in what season, the seabed and local plantlife, weather and water.

## **Just loved the picture: Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations on Fishing Counselling**



Fisheries counselling began 130 years ago when the predecessor of the Fisheries Center Association was founded in 1891! Find out how advice on fishing and fisheries spread across Finland and has developed into 21 regional fishermen's associations and fishing centers. The picture here is taken from the website of the Federation. See in Swedish/Finnish here:

<https://ahven.net/sv/artiklar/2021/01/29/130ar-fiskeriradgivning/>

And if you want to know about fish and their world (age of fish, vocabulary, how to gut and handle fish, fish illnesses and parasites, teaching material), and you like reading Swedish and Finnish, you can learn a lot of their website:

<https://ahven.net/sv/fakta-om-fisk/>

## **Marine Ingredients and covid and the link with fish and omega 3 – does it help?**

Fish is a good thing to eat because it gives you vitamin D and ensures omega 3. And now research is showing that a high content of omega 3 in your blood can protect against the effects of covid. Researchers in Los Angeles have been looking into this. It's only a pilot study, it's got to be peer reviewed, but it looks optimistic. Marine Ingredients in Danish:

<https://maring.org/news-events/patienter-med-hoejere-niveau-af-omega-3-i-blodet-har-mindre-risiko-for-at-doe-af-covid-19-indikerer-ny-forskning/>

The Los Angeles news in English here (and they mention zinc):

[https://www.nutraingredients.com/Article/2021/01/12/Patients-with-more-omega-3s-in-blood-less-likely-to-die-from-COVID-19-pilot-study-finds?utm\\_source=newsletter\\_daily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=13-Jan-2021](https://www.nutraingredients.com/Article/2021/01/12/Patients-with-more-omega-3s-in-blood-less-likely-to-die-from-COVID-19-pilot-study-finds?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13-Jan-2021)

**Job hunting? Danish Pelagic PO is looking for a new member of staff**

Someone who can do administrative work, experience with book keeping, coordinating projects and planning events

It's in Danish and will be based in Denmark:

<http://www.dppo.dk/ledig-stilling>

Deadline 5th February 2021

**European Anglers Alliance go back to December and report from Brussels – and can the EU afford not to include recreational fisheries in the CFP?**

We reported on this in December, but it's good to get the EAA report from this webinar on monitoring and control of recreational fisheries. Recreational fisheries don't like their „half-in, half-out status” in the CFP. See thier report here:

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/14581/including-marine-recreational-fisheries-in-the-cfp-can-the-eu-afford-not-to.html>