

We wrote to members for contributions by 31st October 2019.

Please let us have any news by 29th November 2019.

BSAC news and meetings

The BSAC Joint Working Group 29th October 2019, Gdynia: fisheries control and reaction to October Council meeting to adopt TACs for the Baltic

This meeting dealt with and almost completed discussions and input from members on the Commission's proposal for a revised control regulation. There are a few Articles and Annexes outstanding and the meeting was invited to send comments to the Secretariat in writing. The outcome will be available soon. The Secretariat will prepare a compilation of all the input dealt with/discussed/received to all of the articles in Article 1 of the proposal (to put together everything from all three WG meetings that have taken place on this proposal. The BSAC Executive Committee will have the final say/approval.

There was also an exchange amongst members over the outcome of the October Council which decided on the fishing opportunities for 2020 for the Baltic. This led to consideration of how to prepare for the coming Executive Committee meeting on 20th January 2020. This will address the challenges facing the Baltic. The WG chair confirmed that a representative from the ICES Secretariat has been invited to come and take part in the meeting (confirmed). It was noted at the working group that the BSAC should prepare carefully for this meeting.

The BSAC Executive Committee meeting 20th January 2020, Brussels

This meeting will be held at the NH Hotel Berlaymont close to the Berlaymont building. An invitation is almost ready to be sent, followed up by an agenda. The ExCom chair has sent invitations to the PECH Committee to take part, as well as to Commissioner-designate Virginijus Sinkevicius.

BSAC output recommendations from the BSAC and replies

Circular Design - Invitation to BSAC to participate in a questionnaire

The consultancy MRAG is preparing a questionnaire on the circular design of fishing gear. MRAG Europe (partnering with Fundacion AZTI (AZTI), the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and Denmarks Technical University (DTU Aqua) has been contracted by DG Mare to review, assess and identify existing challenges (legal, practical) in the collection, redesign, reuse, recycle and/or monitoring of recycling of ALDFG and end-of-life fishing gear. This project will also work towards providing best available practices and technologies, including voluntary commitments and certification processes. MRAG hope that their questionnaire will enable stakeholders to have a role in helping shape future policy on fisheries management to ensure that improvements are made in the collection, redesign, reuse, recycle and/or monitoring of recycling of ALDFG and end-of-life fishing gear.

A DG Mare invitation to a survey 'Review of the State aid instruments applicable to the fishery and aquaculture sector': BSAC answer

DG Mare are reviewing the State aid framework, so as to ensure consistency of the regulations and the guidelines with the future rules governing the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (the post-2020 EMFF regulation' currently negotiated by the co-legislators). The BSAC has sent a reply and you can get it from the BSAC Secretariat.

A European Court of Auditors Survey: Agencies performance driven? SURVEY: focus on the European Fisheries Control Agency

The BSAC was also invited to take part in this survey, and has sent a reply, particularly positive about the working of the EFCA. You can get it from the BSAC Secretariat.

News from BSAC member organisations

Change within the BSAC member organisation Latvian Fisheries Association

At their recent extraordinary general meeting, the following were elected:

1. President of the Latvian Fishermen`s association – Didzis Šmits
2. Chairman of the Board of Latvian Fishermen`s association – Aleksandrs Blohins

Thus, Inarijs Voits former President, is no longer with the Association. The BSAC chair has written to Inarijs to thank him for the cooperation over the years with the BSAC.

New membership application: from Poland

The BSAC has received an application for membership from the Polish organisation Organizacja Producentów Ryb Bałtyk Sp. z o. o. – a Baltic Fish Producer Organisation based in Kołobrzeg. They represent fishermen fishing for pelagic species in the Baltic. The members own 10 vessels which are fishing in SDs 25-26 and catching 20% of the sprat and herring allocated to Poland. The vessels are above 25.5 metres. BSAC members have been informed and Baltic Member States consulted.

The Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations to visit

The FFFA is making a study tour to Copenhagen on 2nd December. Apart from visiting and meeting with the Danish Fishermen PO, they'll also visit the BSAC (Secretariat staff) and find out about the work of the BSAC.

More information and comments from members below under other information n(especially to do with the October Council)

BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings

Not that we know of

Council news and meetings

Baltic Sea: Council agreement on 2020 catch limits

On 14th October the Council agreed on next year's **total allowable catches** (TACs) and member states' quotas **for the ten most commercially important fish stocks in the Baltic Sea. The press release:** <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/10/15/baltic-sea-council-agreement-on-2020-catch-limits/>

and the TACS for 2020 per species:

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41053/191014-15-baltic-tacs_table.pdf

The BSAC has made a table with overview of the figures and major decisions. Find it on front page of website under News: www.bsac.dk

The proposal is expected to be adopted on 30th October and then sent out as a regulation. At the October Council meeting, several declarations were adopted. The first concerned the decision on eastern Baltic cod, and given its consequences, all Member States called on the Commission to put forward, as soon as possible, a proposal for an amendment to the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Regulation to allow for aid for permanent and temporary scrapping. The Commission made a declaration to the effect whereby if there is new scientific advice concerning western Baltic cod or western Baltic herring, the Commission will consider proposals for amending the fishing opportunities. Given the situation for eastern Baltic cod, all Member States committed themselves not to use year-to-year flexibility provisions in 2020. The Commission and Germany had a joint declaration about the use of temporary aid from the EMFF in connection with the implementation of emergency measures for western Baltic cod and western Baltic herring.

Commission news and meetings

The Commission held a Workshop on traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products organised in the framework of the Expert Group on Fisheries Control (10th October 2019)

The PowerPoint presentations of the speakers at the recent have now been published online. The presentations are here:

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/traceability-fisheries-products-know-what-you-buy_en

DG Mare thanked all participants who made the workshop a success.

Press Statement made by Commissioner Vella following the AGRIFISH Council in Luxembourg

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/press-statement-commissioner-vella-following-agrifish-council-luxembourg_en

Commission DG Mare informing on the Commission requests to ICES about spatial management of Baltic sprat and about eastern Baltic cod by-catch

On the spatial management of sprat: DG Mare has informed the BSAC that ICES has replied to DG Mare informing that for reasons of lack of data, scientific knowledge and expertise, it was not in a position to provide such an advice. The Commission will discuss with ICES and BALTFISH how to possibly take this issue forward, and will keep the BSAC informed.

On eastern Baltic cod 2020 – by catch TAC SD 24 and SDs 27-32: ICES informally told DG Mare that they would issue the advice in early/mid-November. DG Mare is seeking information on by-catch levels.

The EU-Russia annual meeting 24th -25th September 2019, Brussels

DG Mare has informed that regarding EU-Russia, the discussions on the Agreed Record could not be finalised because of lack of time. DG Mare suggested different options on how to finalise the work. Russia will hopefully revert soon on this.

From DG Mare letters regarding the New Technical Measures Regulation and recreational fishing

DG Mare has sent to the Advisory Councils copies of letters sent from DG Mare Acting Director-Director Bernhard Friess to the regional groups concerning the above.

The new Technical Measures Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 *) was published in the Official Journal of 25 July 2019 and entered into force on 14 August 2019. The Commission is drawing attention to some of the provisions in this new regulation and in particular on their applicability with regard to recreational fishing. Recreational fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources and Member States must ensure that they are conducted in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. Therefore, the Commission would expect the Regional Groups (such as BALTFISH) to consider submitting joint recommendations on minimum conservation reference sizes or on closed or restricted areas covering recreational fishing of parts A and C of Annexes V to X, where this can contribute to the objectives of the CFP. This would be, in particular, the case of the stocks where the scientific advice has already established that recreational fishing has a significant impact on fish resources of the region(s) and where it is therefore expected that joint recommendations will be submitted by the Regional Groups in order to enable the Commission to adopt the corresponding delegated acts aiming at ensuring that the objectives of the CFP are met. Letter available from BSAC Secretariat.

A presentation on Horizon 2020 and its synergies with EMFF: EU Budget for the future

DG Mare has sent to us a presentation made recently on Horizon 2020 and what's new and how it works together with the EMFF. The Commission is at our disposal for questions we may have. It's on web:

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

From DG Mare to the Advisory Council on the place of Small-Scale Fisheries in Advisory Councils

DG Mare has written to all Advisory Councils about the place dedicated to Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) in Advisory Councils. They refer to rules aimed at encouraging the participation of SSF in Advisory Councils. More than 4 years after the entry into force of these rules, DG Mare would like to know to what extent they have been implemented, what difficulties have been encountered and/or how the situation could be improved. The BSAC ExCom is informed. Letter is obtainable from the Secretariat.

The Commission informs about the seventh Scientific Advice

Sent to the Advisory Councils

A group of chief scientific advisers, who advise the Commission, has provided an opinion (88 pages) which recommends ways to generate high quality scientific advice for European policy. This is essential to ensure

the functioning of democracies. And do it, they've made three recommendations:

- Engage early and regularly
- Ensure the quality of the scientific advice
- Analyse, assess and communicate uncertainties.

Read the report here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/scientific-advice-european-policy-complex-world_en

The latest issue of the **EUMOFA Monthly Highlights No. 8/2019** has now been published.

It's here:

See first sales prices for July for main commercial species from several Baltic MS:

<https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/155928/MH+8+2019+EN.pdf>

European Parliament news and meetings

ACOM vice chair Colm Lordan made a presentation at the PECH Committee on 3rd October 2019

His presentation was to give the new PECH committee members and introduction to the ICES process and to give an overview. The essence of his talk was:

What is ICES? • Context of the advice? • How is ICES advice produced? • Data • How does ICES assess the state of fish stocks? • Precautionary and MSY Reference Points • ICES and the ecosystem approach. His presentation is here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/187520/ICES%20-%20Colm%20LORDAN-original.pdf>

PECH Newsletter „Trawler – October 2019“ prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries is now available on PECH website:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/187403/Trawler%20October%202019-original.pdf>

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries: 11th -12th November 2019

Next public hearing: “Facing the new challenges of the EU control system“ (12th November 2019)

A BSAC letter to the PECH chair and vice chairs – congratulations

The BSAC sent a letter to the PECH chair and vice-chair to congratulate them on their election as chair and vice chairs of the PECH Committee. The BSAC wished them and all their colleagues on the Committee every success with the coming meetings and work of the Committee.

EFCA Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA Advisory Board meeting and Administrative Board meetings 20th and 21st October 2019

The BSAC ExCom chair took part at both meetings. We're looking forward to hearing how they went.

News from other ACs

Inter-AC (DG Mare meets all the Advisory Councils): 8th November 2019, Brussels

The Inter-AC meeting will be held on 8th November in Brussels. There will be a pre-meeting of all the ACs before. See both agendas here:

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

The ExCom chair, vice chair and secretary will take part.

The BSAC was asked by the Commission to make a presentation on “ensuring high quality recommendations and their delivery in due time”.

The Markets AC & the North Western Waters AC Workshop on Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain (7th November 2019)

See agenda here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Workshop-on-Plastics-and-Seafood-Supply-Chain>

The NSAC Focus Group on the Circular Design of Fishing Gear 31st October 2019, Schiphol airport

BSAC member Krzysztof Stanuch and the BSAC Secretariat taking part at this. Find the draft agenda and the terms of reference for the work here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/NSAC-Focus-Group-on-Circular-Design-of-Fishing-Gear>

Curbing sea-based pollution – a guidance document for national decision-makers to implement the Single Use Plastics and Port Reception Facilities Directives

https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019_22_10_rpa_bffp_fg_guide.pdf

A MAC/AAC coordinated lunchtime get-together with the PECH Committee 12th November 2019

The European Parliament, the MAC and the AAC are co-organizing a lunch seminar, from 12:45 to 14:15, on “the role of Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy”. The event is kindly hosted by EP PECH Committee Vice-Chairs Peter Van Dalen and Giuseppe Ferrandino. The aim of the seminar is to present to newly-elected PECH Committee members the important role of the ACs in providing recommendations on fisheries and aquaculture management matters, including, market, conservation and socio-economic aspects, as well as dialogue platforms for all relevant stakeholders. The event will start with opening statements by MEP Ferrandino, followed by a presentation by Pascale Colson (DG MARE) on the role of the ACs. The MAC and AAC Executive Committee Chairs will provide an outline of their respective ACs as an example of how the ACs work. The event will conclude with a Q&A and final statements by MEP Van Dalen. A representative of each of the other ACs is invited and interventions during the Q&A section welcomed. The BSAC ExCom Esben Sverdrup-Jensen will go to this meeting.

Other meetings and news of activities

The Danish Ministry of Environment and Food held its Natura 2000 and Marine Strategy Dialogue Forum on 20th September 2019.

They've put their meeting report (in Danish), overview maps with existing and coming fisheries regulations, as well as a report on conservation status for nature areas and species according to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. It's all in Danish:

<https://fiskeristyrelsen.dk/raad-og-udvalg/dialogforum-for-natura-2000-og-havstrategi/moedereferater/>

EU fishmeal conference on improved fisheries management models 8th October 2019

This conference discussed the project Ecosystem Based F_{msy} Values in Fisheries Management (part financed by the Nordic Council, EMFF, Ministry of Environment and Food, Denmark and the Institute of Marine Research). Fish stock assessment models currently used in the North east Atlantic ignore important aspects of ecosystem functioning in terms of density dependent population dynamics with respect to growth, sexual maturity and mortality as well as species relations. This leads to a considerable underestimation of the fishing pressure (F_{msy}) and the level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), a central reference point in fisheries management. The central conclusion of the project is that managing the Northeast Atlantic fisheries using the new F_{msy} values would increase the sustainable catch by several million tons per year. You can see the presentations made here, including one by Esben Sverdrup-Jensen on behalf of the Danish Pelagic PO:

<http://eufishmeal.org/news-events/conclusions-from-the-eufishmeal-conference-on-improved-fisheries-management-models/>

FARNET: Post-2020: Local action in a changing world Brussels, 2nd -4th December 2019

The BSAC has received an invitation to this conference on community-led local development (CLLD), organised by the FARNET Support Unit at the initiative of DG MARE (the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) of the European Commission. Wolfgang Albrecht, Association of Fisheries Protection will go to this on behalf of the BSAC.

The programme is here:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/sites/farnet/files/events/draft-agenda_emff_1.pdf

ICES and science

ICES salmon workshop on 4th – 5th November, Copenhagen ICES

The **Workshop on Evaluating the Draft Baltic Salmon Management Plan** (WKBaltSalMP I) will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 4-5 November 2019, chaired by ICES Chair Stefan Palm (Sweden) and External Chair Eskild Kirkegaard (Denmark) and attended by two invited external experts, Carrie Holt (Canada), Jamie Gibson (Canada), to scope what efforts are needed in order to evaluate the draft of a multiannual management plan for the salmon stocks in the Baltic Sea proposed by BALTFISH. BSAC will be represented at this. The first workshop should address the Terms of Reference..

There are plans for two workshops as part of the work. The first “scoping one”, intended for experts and managers to meet and discuss, is scheduled for 4-5 November (ICES HQ) where the second day will be focused on more technical issues related to the specific questions to be addressed. There will be a separate written report documenting the work as well as an advice sheet from ICES responding to the request. Both should be completed and reviewed before end of May 2020. The BSAC will take part at this workshop. Agenda and Terms of Reference here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Workshop-to-evaluate-the-draft-Baltic-salmon-manag>

A Workshop on the ICES Approach to Uncertainty will be held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 (14:00–17:00) at ICES.

The 2020 Meeting between ICES, Advisory Observers and other Observers (MIACO 2020) will take place on Thursday 16th January (13:00 start)–Friday 17th January 2020 (13:00 finish) at the ICES Secretariat in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Items for discussion can be forwarded to hgj@ices.dk The agenda will be available early January 2020.

What role can industry play in delivering scientific information to ICES? Report from ICES Workshop on Science with Industry Initiatives (WKSCINDI) is now available at the ICES Community website

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

The citation for this report is: ICES. 2019. Workshop on Science with Industry Initiatives (WKSCINDI). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:68. 67 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5610>

ICES WKBALTIC February 25th -26th February 2020, ICES, Copenhagen

Another reminder about this ICES workshop on the ecosystem based management of the Baltic Sea.

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

ICES have taken the trouble to contact the BSAC to investigate the dates and interest. The hope is for the ExCom to be willing to sign up for this and we can look at numbers.

DTU Aqua – the outlook is bleak for the eastern Baltic cod **16th October 2019**

The introduction to this article is: Poor oxygen conditions, lack of food and more parasites transferred from grey seals are having a bigger effect on the eastern Baltic cod than the fishery. The article goes on to talk about poor growth and high natural mortality, conditions in the Baltic have got worse for the cod, poor recruitment. It's in Danish:

https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2019/10/det-ser-dystert-ud-for-torsken-i-den-oestlige-oestersoe?id=2f3ac45c-00d0-4c9d-a88a-421bc51af8f4&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=

DTU Aqua on fast track: Hope for better gears in more sorts of fisheries

9th October 2019

Fast track was a three year project that ended at the end of 2018 and dealt with cooperation between fishermen, netmakers and DTU Aqua and has led to the development of no fewer than 19 new gear designs. One of the four groups of fisheries that took part dealt with trawl fishing in the Baltic (for cod and flatfish). This little article is in Danish, but at the end you can find a report of the FastTrack project in English:

https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/2019/10/haab-om-bedre-redskaber-i-flere-typer-fiskeri?id=3b197efe-7604-4b23-baba-f8a0fb273dfe&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=

DTU Aqua: A new theory on fisheries ecology and development of fish stocks

18th October 2019

Professor Ken Haste Andersen has written a book called "Fish Ecology, Evolution and Exploitation—A new theoretical synthesis". It's a new theory on how to describe demography, structure of fish stocks and their evolutionary ecology. According to Ken Haste there's a need for a new theory because there are many challenges facing fisheries management, one of them being the need to implement ecosystem based management. His new theory is based on two assumptions: 1. basic metabolism of an organism is in a fixed relation to the weight of the organism and 2. big fish eat small fish. Read in Danish here, where you can also find out how to buy the book (in English!):

https://www.aqua.dtu.dk/nyheder/nyhed?id=3FF0B838-6C09-41A3-88D8-EC31C7A2E6D2&utm_device=web&utm_source=RelatedNews&utm_campaign=Haab-om-bedre-redskaber-i-flere-typer-fiskeri

HELCOM

The HELCOM Workshop Invitation to HELCOM Workshop on the analyses of Sufficiency of Measures (SOM) for Fish, Warsaw, Poland, 4th-6th November 2019

This is relevant in connection with the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. The BSAC is invited to take part and the EBM WG chairman stated at the recent WG that the BSAC should send a strong representation to use this opportunity to propose the measures that should be included in the revised BSAP. Nils Höglund the Chair of the EBM WG and Michael Andersen Demersal WG chair will represent the BSAC, as well as BSAC rapporteur, which means there will be a report. See agenda etc here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/HELCOM-Workshop-on-analyses-of-Sufficiency-of-Measures>

The 21st Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 21-2019) will take place on 6th – 8th November 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.

Dealing with regionally coordinated implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the development of a HELCOM science agenda - to outline existing and foreseen needs. More on the HELCOM website.

HELCOM Workshop on benthic mapping 11th-12th November 2019, Helsinki

No agenda yet, but it's going to deal with a questionnaire on mapping of habitats, biotopes and species.

Other information/reading

Improve your Polish!!! September/October issue of Wiadomości Rybackie (in Polish) now available online (short report from the BSAC meetings included in this)

<http://rybackie.com.pl/new.php>

The Fisheries Secretariat: made an update on Eastern Baltic Cod

28th September, 2019

They provide a list of recent documents and correspondence concerning Eastern Baltic Cod (EBC), with the date of publication or corresponding meeting for each document:

<https://www.fishsec.org/2019/09/28/update-on-eastern-baltic-cod/>

The Fisheries Secretariat inform that on 8th October 2019, three county governors in Sweden wrote to the government agency requesting that “the Swedish industrial pelagic fishery is not allowed in the area where cod fishing is forbidden. Within the EU, Sweden should work towards the same conditions for fishermen from other countries.” In Swedish: <https://www.lansstyrelsen.se/skane/om-lansstyrelsen-skane/nyheter-och-press/nyheter---skane/2019-10-07-landshovdingar-vill-stoppa-storskaligt-foderfiske-i-sodra-ostersjon.html>

The Fisheries Secretariat informs on Baltic Sea Fishing Opportunities 2020 – Council agreement 15th October

<https://www.fishsec.org/2019/10/15/baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-2020-council-agreement/>

Coalition Clean Baltic has comment to Ministers’ decision on TACs for the Baltic Sea

Better than expected, but the major failure is the missing link between cod and main prey sprat.

https://ccb.se/2019/10/ccbs-comment-to-ministers-decision-on-tacs-for-the-baltic-sea/?fbclid=IwAR0ifcLLt7ejCZjSg_XiS8OU7LAownxDvZpSDuJt_teUHT60wW-Wsvv1fns

CCB has joined and signed the Ocean Call

This carries the voice and the commitments of more than 50 organizations mobilised for the ocean alongside Surfrider Foundation Europe. It’s about ocean protection and they have 4 main requests. See here:

<https://ccb.se/2019/08/ccb-joined-the-ocean-call-for-g7/>

The Coast Union Germany EUCC Die Küsten Union Deutschland gives a short report on the outcome of the October Fisheries Council

15th October 2019

It gives the basic information, including referring to the extended closures that will be introduced, as well as mentioning the stricter bag limit for the recreational fishermen. At the bottom of its article it has a string of links to organisations – fisheries and administration in Schlewzig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, WWF, German ministry - giving their different reactions to the final figures, what they mean for Germany and its fisheries sector and whether they go far enough. In German:

<https://www.eucc-d.de/meldung-detail/items/ostsee-einigung-im-rat-ueber-fangbeschraenkungen-fuer-2020.html>

The Union of German Cutter Fishery: EU TAC setting for the Baltic 2020 will destroy businesses and jobs

15th October 2019

Reporting on the fallout from the October Fisheries Council, one captain of a vessel points out that any employee can imagine what it means to lose 60% of his income. According to the article, Baltic fishermen can’t recognise the media reports that stocks are in an alarming state. Western herring and western cod are existentially important to the German fishermen. The press release presents the results in table form. On a positive note, it points out that the closure of the cod fishery in the western Baltic in SDs 22-23 is from February to March only. Government representatives are discussing aid measures for the sector. Those affected are hoping for aid to scrap their vessels in 2020. In German:

https://www.deutscher-fischerei-verband.de/teaser_pressemitteilung1.html

The Danish Fishermen PO call the decisions taken at the October Council a black chapter in the history of the Baltic (also reported on in the Danish Fishing News 19th October 2019)

15th October 2019

What was agreed at the October Council is in their opinion a slap in the face and it's a disappointment for the fishermen and one which will have serious consequences. BSAC member representative and here as vice president of the DFPO Kim Kær Hansen acknowledged the efforts made by the Danish Minister for Environment and Food, but it was a difficult meeting and where only Germany and Denmark fought for the interests of the fishermen. He was pleased to see vessels below 12 metres and using certain gears allowed to fish during the closed periods, but he hopes there will be a discussion on compensation. All in Danish:

<https://fiskeriforening.dk/presse/pressemeddelelser/kvoter-2019-et-sort-kapitel-i-%C3%B8stersoeens-historie/>

Baltic Sea 2020 comment on the October Council decisions

Baltic Sea 2020 finds the decision to close the fishery for eastern Baltic cod and allow a bycatch quota to be a step in the right direction in terms of helping the smaller vessels survive. All in all, the decision represents progress by the Commission, the Swedish policy line and the Finnish Presidency. But it's only a first step on a long journey. A more long term policy and approach is needed. See here in Swedish:

<http://balticsea2020.org/pressrum/773-beslut-om-kvoter-for-nasta-ars-fiske-i-ostersjon>

Fiskerbladet: on Catastrophe in the Baltic and EU ministers don't care about the fishermen: The Danish monthly news magazine Fiskerbladet (for the fishing sector) November 2019

These are two articles in the magazine: one by Esben Sverdrup-Jensen as director of the Danish Pelagic PO and giving the pelagic perspective with consequences for the fishery, the processing sector and fishing communities; and another article with a short report on the decisions taken in October. All in Danish. Ref rene@fiskerbladet.dk

The European Anglers Alliance on the October Council

17th October 2019

The October Council decision is seen as rather good news for the EAA, though they had wanted for a separate management scheme for SD 23 (Öresund). More words on the Öresund, a unique area since the ban on trawling in 1932. Total economic value of recreational fisheries in that area more than 50 million EUR.

<https://www.eaa-europe.org/news/13768/western-baltic-cod-eu-ministers-agree-a-5-cod-bag-limit-for-anglers-in-2020.html>

Association for Low Impact Fishery (FSK) – no specific reaction to the October Council - but use of bycatch quota 28th October 2019

They inform of the use, under a coastal fishery scheme in Denmark, whereby they have access to a special bycatch quota for cod – which also includes the west and eastern Baltic. For more information, contact Hanne Lyng Winter at FSK hanne@skaansomtkystfiskeri.dk

The Fisheries Secretariat has a link to a Policy Brief article advising a cut back fishing on herring and sprat

It's from the Baltic Sea Centre, Stockholm University, October 2019

<https://www.fishsec.org/app/uploads/2019/10/Stockholm-University-codstock.pdf>

Marine Ingredients comments on: Are we eating the poor people's fish?

Marine Ingredients comment on an article by DanWatch, according to which "We're eating the poor people's fish" - if the wealthy eat farmed salmon and trout, it's at the expense of poorer societies which need the fish that's used to produce fish meal and fish oil. The DanWatch article (Danish) from 25th October 2019 is here:

<https://danwatch.dk/perspektiv/vi-spiser-den-fattige-verdens-fisk/>

According to Marine Ingredients, to produce one kilo of farmed salmon requires less than one kilo of wild caught fish; the rest of the food is made up of fish waste and offcuts, as well as vegetable based products. Their reply (Danish) to DanWatch is here: 28th October 2019:

<http://maring.org/news-events/kommentar-til-danwatch-artikel/>

The Danish Minister for environment and food says there's a need to look at the ramifications of the future Baltic fisheries

9th October 2019

A new report shows that Danish fishermen in the Baltic stand to lose up to one fifth of their earnings if cod and herring quotas are reduced (as the Commission proposed). For that reason, the Danish minister is going to prepare to hold meetings and discussions on the future of the fisheries in the Baltic. He will meet with fisheries organisations and other interest groups and the work is not expected to be completed before next summer. Danish fishermen stand to lose between 16 and 21% of their earnings if quotas are reduced significantly in 2020. That corresponds to between 5 to 8 million EUR. This is described in a report by the Danish Department of Food and Resource Economics. See here (English):

https://static-curis.ku.dk/portal/files/228411740/IFRO_Commissioned_Work_2019_17.pdf

The Swedish Fishermen PO – Baltic Sea 2020 want to fool us about cod

The president of the Swedish Fishermen PO Peter Rönelov Olsson is critical of a recent article by Baltic Sea 2020 in the Swedish publication Dagens Industri. He maintains they are spreading lies about the cod fishery in the Baltic and painting a black picture about the commercial fishery. According to Baltic 2020 the crisis affecting the cod is due to high fishing pressure and the use of bottom trawling. The president says that last year the coastal fisheries fished only 24% of their quota and there is no large scale bottom trawling carried out by the small vessels catching cod near the coast. In Swedish: <https://www.sfpo.se/>

Altinget on Five recommendations to help the Baltic recover

23rd October 2019

This is an article in Danish from the Danish news feed Altinget. Three e NGOs Greenpeace, WWF and OurFish have five suggestions to help the Baltic:

The minister [Denmark] must listen to the scientists, anoxia is on the increase, introduce more effective fisheries control, establish more protected areas, have a complete revision of the management regulations for the Baltic. It's in Danish:

<https://www.altinget.dk/foedevarer/artikel/greenpeace-her-er-fem-anbefalinger-til-genopretning-af-oestersoen>

The Association of Fisheries Protection (Fischereischutzverband) - "Wir fischen" campaign: We're fishing

22nd October 2019

They tell about a new website that's been created to present and give a comprehensive picture of the fishery in the state of Schleswig-Holstein - a chance for visitors to the site to learn about the fish, the fishery, and its importance for local business, as well as the many tourists who come to the area.

<http://www.fischereischutzverband.de/seiten/aktuell.html>

Marine litter and health and safety

Clean Nordic Oceans news

16th October 2019

They work toward awareness, mapping, retrieval and recycling of litter from fisheries. There are many good projects and companies working on awareness, mapping, retrieval and recycling of litter from fisheries. You can get a brief overview and find links to more information:

<http://cnogear.org/news/english/work-toward-awareness-mapping-retrieval-and-recycling-of-litter-from-fisheries>

among them:

Ghost nets in Danish waters:

Working to find information on how many ghost nets there are, where they are located and find suggestions for how they can be removed and how to prevent more of them from ending up in the ocean.

Read more at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/mapping-ghost-nets-in-danish-waters>

Lost and derelict fishing gear - Greenland style

In 2019, several projects dealing with derelict fishing gear and the cleanup of fishing grounds has secured finance. Read more about it at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/greenland-launches-various-initiatives-to-remove-and-recycle-derelict-fishing-gear>

Europêche on the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, organized by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Government of Spain in Torremolinos.

25th October 2019

The aim of this conference was to promote the Cape Town Agreement on the safety of fishing vessels. This Agreement which relates to the Torremolinos Convention for Safe Fishing Vessels has not yet come into force.

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/safe-fishing-legal-fishing-sustainable-fishing-273293>

Don't forget to sign up to the Clean Nordic Oceans Final conference

21-22nd November 2019

Join the conference and stay updated on:

- The challenge with ghost fishing, littering of the oceans and recycling from fishing activities
- CNO experience, findings and recommendations
- Other Nordic Initiatives
- Nordic and Global Perspective (among others, IMO and GGGI)
- View from the seafood market

The deadline is **10th November 2019**.

- **Sign up here:** <https://app.easyquest.com/q/Qf43B> or at our webpage.
 - o No participant fee

For more information about the conference, sign up details and **the programme**, go to <http://cnogear.org/calendar/clean-nordic-oceans-final-conference>