

BSAC Demersal Working Group
Tuesday 8th March 2022
10.00 – 15.00 (CET) by Zoom¹
DRAFT Agenda - update 280222

- 1. Welcome by the Demersal WG Chair Teija Aho**
- 2. Formalities for the start of the meeting**
Apologies and adoption of the agenda
- 3. Update on where we are in the BSAC with the issue of seals** [the Secretariat made a background note – attached]
- 4. The challenges with the parasitic liver worm in cod – Jane Behrens, Senior Researcher at DTU Aqua (Section for Marine Living Resources) has **confirmed** to speak about this. She will provide latest updates on their research into cod, liver worm etc., including information on monitoring of liver worm on BITS surveys.**
30 min presentation, then time for Q&A
- 5. Lotte Kindt-Larsen, Researcher, DTU Aqua (Section for Ecosystem Based Marine Management) has **confirmed** she will give a short presentation on consumption of cod by grey the seals in the Baltic.**
10 min presentation, then 5 mins for Q&A
- 6. The consideration of small scale fisheries - Sven-Gunnar Lunneryd (tbc) and Sara Königson (**confirmed**), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**
30 min presentation, then time for Q&A
- 7. The issue of trade in seal products [BSAC has contacted DG Mare]**
- 8. The HELCOM seal policy (seal populations are allowed to grow as long as the ecosystem carrying capacity is achieved)² – this to be seen this in relation to the Habitats Directive. And in relation to the management of seals. All MS have been invited to give information/update on seal management. *Please see in the background note the responses received so far from MS (some will inform at the meeting) and extracts from the HELCOM EG MAMA 15-2021 (HELCOM informed we used this).***

¹ There will be interpreting GER>ENG>GER, PL>ENG>PL. Please remember online etiquette.

² <https://www.helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Rec-27-28-2.pdf>

9. The TNC project on the impacts of seals and cormorants experienced by Baltic Sea commercial fisheries. ³ Riku Mesiniemi and Satu Pakarinen of the Development Association Sepra have **confirmed** they'll take part and present the key topics that were discussed in the report.

10. Technical measures - update and status on Commission's Implementing Regulation for Technical Measures Regulation

At the Pelagic WG on 24.1.22 the WG Chair recalled that the implementation of technical measures had been raised during the ExCom meeting on 17th January 2022 with request to be dealt as soon as possible, hence it was put on the agenda of the Pelagic Working Group.

A fisheries representative referred to the provisions included in the Implementing Regulation to the Regulation 2019/1241⁴ on technical measures. The draft provisions may lead to several misinterpretations of the existing technical rules. Consultation of the BSAC on the implementing provisions⁵ has not been sufficient and they should be discussed by the BSAC. He underlined the importance of this discussion and the need to set aside adequate time for it. Therefore, he proposed to discuss the matter in the Demersal Working Group meeting on 8th March 2022.

The Working Group decided to discuss the implementation of the Technical Measures Regulation at the meeting of the Demersal Working group, hopefully with a representative of the European Commission.⁶

11. AOB

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https://jukuri.luke.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/544854/luke_luobio_77_2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y&fbclid=IwAR2cHrHn1ONAWu_p96PRGRVkdE6Ys_k_5dz9P6nTaV6ECfEaCCRfuQL6CPg

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005

⁵ The Commission's Implementing Regulation is still in the pipeline. Raised most recently by the BSAC in Commission Consultation on the Action Plan: http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/c88907a6-bfa4-429b-8443-5b699d7f4eeb/BSACreplytoActionPlanConsultation21_22_30.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

⁶ The BSAC Secretariat has written to DG Mare to recall the work on technical measures, and questions raised by the BSAC at earlier meetings and to invite to the meeting.