

**Draft: Thirteenth Annual Report of the  
Baltic Sea Advisory Council 2018-2019**  
*Drafted in April/ to be finalised in May 2019*

**Introduction**

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council has been in operation since 2006. Its main function is to advise the European Commission and Member States on matters relating to management of the fisheries in the Baltic Sea. Its work and activities are funded by the EU Commission, the Baltic Sea Member States and its members.

This annual report covers the activities and meetings of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Representatives of the BSAC in 2018-2019 have included fisheries associations, producer organisations, processors, market and trade organisations, an organisation representing workers' rights, environmental NGOs, and recreational and sports fishermen. All Baltic Member States are represented.<sup>1</sup>

The BSAC consists of a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, three Working Groups: for demersal fisheries, pelagic fisheries, and ecosystem-based management (EBM). The demersal and pelagic working groups have been holding joint working groups since 2010, because they share issues of common interest. A salmon and sea trout working group has been dormant since 2012, so issues relating to this can be dealt with by the working group for ecosystem-based management. The BSAC is assisted by a Secretariat based in Copenhagen and by a Management Team, which was created in November 2018.<sup>2</sup>

**Main results/outputs from the BSAC during the year 2018 – 2019**

The BSAC work programme contained a number of focus areas.

**Focus: The landing obligation in the Baltic and selectivity**

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<sup>1</sup> The list members of the BSAC for 2018 - 2019 is at the end of the Annual Report.

<sup>2</sup> The names of the chairs, vice chair and those working for the Secretariat are given at the end.

“The BSAC wants to make sure that it gathers and shares experience of the landing obligation in the Baltic and works to ensure its optimal application “

The EU’s regional Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs) set objectives, priorities, procedures and benchmarks for inspection activities in priority fisheries. In connection with the revision exercise for three SCIPs expiring in 2018, the Commission consulted the ACs. The BSAC held a Focus Group on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018, so as to prepare answers to the key questions in the consultation. The final reply was approved by the ExCom on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018. It was a comprehensive paper which also included general statements on fisheries control as well as technical measures. Fisheries representatives expressed support for increased control by using the tools currently available. The OIG representatives expressed support for the use of remote monitoring (CCTV). This issue closely relates to the Commission’s proposal for a revised Control Regulation (published on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018) and it was also discussed at the Working group meetings – see below under Focus: A new control regulation.

The BSAC ExCom chair took part at the Advisory Board meetings of the European Fisheries Control Agency on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and reported on current work and discussions within the BSAC relating to control and state of play with the landing obligation.

By letter of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Commission wrote to ask the BSAC for information and experience on choke species in the Baltic fisheries. The Secretariat compiled a table based on input received from BSAC members and sent this to DG Mare.<sup>3</sup> Fisheries representatives from all the Baltic Member States gave input and in general informed that choke species were not a big problem in the Baltic. The BSAC has not discussed this in detail with the Commission.

An important meeting for the BSAC was the Commission Workshop on digital tools for monitoring and reporting catches for small scale fisheries (SSF) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December in Brussels. Three BSAC fisheries representatives took part and provided input from practical experience at sea.

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“The BSAC is ready to take a proactive approach with regard to selectivity and plans to work to enhance better co-operation between fishermen, scientists and net-makers and co-ordinate the work on selective cod trawls carried out in different Baltic Member States to come with potential solutions as soon as possible.”

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-replies-to-questions-from-DG-Mare-on-choke-sp>

The BSAC has maintained efforts to remain involved in the process of shaping the joint recommendation authorising the use of alternative T90 trawls in Baltic Sea fisheries (2018/47 of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017). In continuation of the work done already in 2017-2018 on technical specifications of the T90 cod end in the demersal fishery, the BSAC sent a second reply (24<sup>th</sup> April 2018) to clarify certain details on the technical specifications. It also wrote a letter (1<sup>st</sup> October 2018) to the BALTFISH Presidency about BACOMA and T90 as a response to the consultation by the BALTFISH Presidency on a joint recommendation from BALTFISH. The BSAC pointed out that the development of this particular modification of the T90 and BACOMA has been a long-term process.

The BSAC took part at the BALTFISH Forum meeting in Copenhagen on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and again at the BALTFISH Forum meeting in Stockholm on 5 September 2018. At both these meetings, BSAC representatives provided input on technical measures/selectivity, informed on its advice about TACS and quotas, and gave information on BSAC meetings that had taken place.

The BSAC hosted the first day of an ICES Workshop (WKIDEBCA) on methods for stakeholder involvement in gear development on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, Copenhagen. The BSAC produced a report from the first day. This workshop confirmed the importance of stakeholder involvement in the development of fishing gears and the development of advice and best practices to help identify incentive structures, self-sampling methods and way for facilitating stakeholder development.

At short notice, the BSAC was consulted by MEP Gabriel Mato, rapporteur for the technical measures file. This was a technical and very specific consultation, relating, amongst others to the Article 4 of the technical measures proposal on targets. The BSAC could only contribute in a limited way, given the time constraint, but sent an answer.<sup>4</sup>

### **Focus: Multiannual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks, taking into account ecosystem interactions**

“The BSAC will strive to provide the best advice and recommendations which take into account multi-species considerations and interactions.”

Multiannual, multispecies management was addressed within the framework of the ICES 2019 advice for the Baltic fisheries and the Joint Working Group held in Tallinn, on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The BSAC recommendations for the fishery were further dealt with by the ExCom at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018, and subsequently adopted and sent on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018<sup>5</sup>. The BSAC had the opportunity to present the recommendations at the BALTFISH Forum-BSAC meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-to-MEP-Gabriel-Mato-about-technical-me>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-recommendations-for-the-fishery-in-2019>

The BSAC also sent a contribution to the Commission's consultation on fishing opportunities 2019.<sup>6</sup>

On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the Baltic Sea Advisory Council Executive Committee hosted a theme meeting on the eastern Baltic cod. The scientists and experts came to present their latest information and data on the stock status and ecosystem conditions and challenges facing the eastern Baltic cod stock. In their presentations, they made clear that the eastern Baltic cod is stressed by multiple factors and is in an acute critical state. The BSAC unanimously approved the recommendations produced at the end of the theme meeting, in which the BSAC called on BALTFISH Member States and the Commission to make the matter the primary priority and react to the situation.<sup>7</sup>

### **Focus: Multiannual management plan for salmon**

“The BSAC is ready to get involved in further consultations of the draft plan, including the technical measures for salmon.”

This has not been possible, since there is still no proposal put forward by the Commission, so the BSAC has gone as far as it can with work on salmon.

### **Focus: Ecosystem based management**

“Work will continue in the framework of the BSAC working group on ecosystem-based management.”

The focus has been on seals, eel and fisheries management in Natura 2000 areas.

Seals were on the agenda of three meetings of the Working Group on Ecosystem-based Management. The BSAC produced a majority statement on illegal culling of seals. It also raised issues with the regulation 1007/2009 on trade in seal products and sent a letter to DG Mare. At the invitation of DG Mare, it was subsequently sent to BALTFISH. The BSAC discussed and produced input to a planned BALTFISH/HELCOM workshop on seals, with a list of proposed topics.<sup>8</sup> At this Symposium on seal/fisheries interactions, held on 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019, hosted by BALTFISH, the Chair of the ecosystem-based management group was invited to present the BSAC work on seals and to present the views of the members. So the work has been carried out both internally and externally.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-contribution-to-Commission-Consultation-on-Fi>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/The-outcome-of-the-BSAC-Theme-meeting-on-eastern-B>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-outputs-on-seals>

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the BSAC working group on ecosystem-based management held a meeting to update and discuss an overview of the fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas in the Baltic. Member States and the Commission took part. The meeting defined some basic principles for work concerning fisheries management measures in protected areas, among others the need for full transparency of the work being done, constant dialogue with the stakeholders (including the Advisory Councils) and the Commission and a need for more coherence between spatial protection measures in order to bring to improve the co-operation between the fisheries and environmental sector.

### **Focus: Eel**

This has been covered under the above Working Group on ecosystem based management

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the BSAC wrote to confirm its objective of working and developing input for the management of eel and to respond to the Commission's planned evaluation of the eel regulation 1100/2007. After a meeting of the ecosystem-based management working group on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the BSAC prepared and adopted replies to questions sent by the Commission and sent them on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.<sup>9</sup>

Responding to the Commission's online consultation and questionnaire on the eel management regulation was more difficult, since it was addressed to individual respondents and because views within the BSAC on eel management are diverse. Members of the BSAC were encouraged to reply individually. In its reply to DG Mare, the BSAC reiterated the advice already sent.

### **Focus: Recreational fisheries**

"Any activities/work are pending a letter from the BSAC to BALTFISH and reply from BALTFISH".

Already during the year 2017-2018, BSAC members discussed a proposal from the chair to create a separate working group to focus on recreational fisheries. Views differed on this. It was agreed to consult BALTFISH on this. The Danish Presidency replied by letter that it did not intend to create a working group on recreational fisheries, but to deal with this on an ad hoc basis. At the BSAC ExCom meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the ExCom made the same decision. During the year, there have been no specific issues on recreational fisheries, but relevant input has been included and referred to at meetings.

### **Focus: A new control regulation**

"The BSAC will dedicate a working group meeting to deal with this."

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-replies-recovery-of-eel>

The BSAC held two meetings during the year, but work is not completed and it intends to continue the work on this. Involvement of DG Mare at a future meeting is seen as a prerequisite for successfully dealing with the proposal, which is complex, and for clarifying the articles.

### **Focus: Producing recommendations on fishing opportunities for 2019**

“The BSAC will hold a working group to deal with this, and to develop recommendations for the Baltic fishery in 2019.”

The BSAC held a Joint Working Group to discuss the ICES advice for the Baltic for 2019. The Working Group was held in Tallinn, on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The BSAC recommendations for the fishery for 2019 were further dealt with by the ExCom at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018, and subsequently adopted and sent on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The BSAC developed a reply to the Commission’s Communication on the fishing opportunities. This was adopted by a written procedure and sent to the Commission on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

The BSAC took part at the BALTFISH Forum meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Copenhagen and informed on the work towards adopting recommendations of the BSAC for the fishery in the Baltic. The BSAC representatives presented the BSAC recommendations to the BALTFISH Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, held by the Swedish Presidency.

The BSAC took part at the Commission 2018 Seminar on Fisheries Science 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Brussels to review long-term fisheries science challenges, long-term trends with respect to maximum sustainable yield, and mixed fisheries in the North-east Atlantic, the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and in the Mediterranean.

At the BSAC Executive Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018, it was agreed to follow up on the October Council decisions on TACs and quotas for 2019. On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the BSAC sent questions to BALTFISH and DG Mare. Replies were received on 12/2/19 and 6/3/2019.<sup>10</sup>

### **Focus: Other topics and subjects of relevance to the BSAC**

“These can be dealt with within existing working groups or can be the subject of a specific working group/seminar.”

As mentioned earlier, the BSAC ExCom held a theme meeting on eastern Baltic cod on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Scientists and experts presented latest information and data on the stock status and ecosystem conditions and challenges facing the eastern Baltic cod stock. These were sent on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019; a reply was received from BALTFISH<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-letter-with-comments-on-the-decisions-taken-a>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/The-outcome-of-the-BSAC-Theme-meeting-on-eastern-B>

The BSAC followed and took part in the scientific work taking place in ICES to assess the eastern and western Baltic cod stocks. There was the ICES Workshop to evaluate the effect of conservation measures on Eastern Baltic cod (*Gadus morhua*) 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August 2018, Copenhagen, and WKBALTCOD2 – the ICES benchmark on Baltic cod, 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Copenhagen.

Cooperation with ICES: The BSAC, on behalf of all the AC Secretariats, wrote to ICES on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to confirm the wish of all the ACs to continue the format of holding a separate meeting of the ACs with ICES before the annual MIACO meeting. BSAC representatives took part at the annual meetings with ICES in 2019.

Finally, the BSAC was invited to take part in evaluation carried out by the consultancy Poseidon on the support of EMFF direct funding to the ACs. The Secretariat compiled the responses received from members.

### BSAC Recommendations/advice and letters sent 2018-2019<sup>12</sup>

Number	Title	Sent/Adopted	Reply	Comment
1	To ICES about the relevance and value of holding ACs mtgs with ICES	6.4.18	Received e mail confirmation from ACOM chair	Not for web
2	EMFF evaluation ACs (Poseidon)	13.4.18	Received e mail confirmation of receipt 16.4.18	Not for web
3	Letter sent to COM about a proposed amendment to the Delegated Regulation 2019/47 (clarifying an earlier statement and letter (8.3.18) on the T90 amendment)	24.4.18	28.5.18 from DG Mare	On web

<sup>12</sup> Please find BSAC recommendations on the website <http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations>

4	On creating a WG for recreational fisheries	Back to BSAC year 2017-2018	A second reply from BALTFISH received 2.5.18	No
5	Letter to COM regarding roadmap for eel conservation	15.5.18	No	On web
6	Letter to DG Mare on election of ExCom chair – replying to a letter from DG Mare	14.6.18	Letter from DG Mare of 17.5.18	Not web Sent to members 17.6.18
7	BSAC replies to the Commission's letter and questions about the SCIP	2.7.18	No, BSAC replying to COM consultation paper	REV1 sent on 2/7/18 On web
8	The BSAC proposes an amendment to the Regulation (EC) 1007/2009 on trade in seal products to DG Mare	28.6.18	Reply 31.7.18 from DG Mare	On web
9	BSAC replies to questions from DG Mare on choke species	2.7.18	No	On web
10	Recommendations for the fishery 2019	4.7.18	No	On web
11	Trade in seal products From chair to MS	17.8.18	17.1.19 from BALTFISH	On web, together with number 8
12	BSAC contribution to Commission Consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2019	20.8.18	No	Yes
13	BSAC letter to MEP Gabriel Mato about technical measures	30.8.18	No reply, but replying to an e mail of 2.7.18	Yes, but not the e mail request



14	BSAC replies to Commission letter and questions on the measures to take in 2018 in order to promote the recovery of eel	24.9.18	No	On web
15	Letter from the BSAC to BALTFISH Presidency about BACOMA and T90	1.10.18	No	On web
16	BSAC outputs on seals: proposed topics for the joint HELCOM/BALTFISH workshop on seals, and BSAC statement on illegal killing of seals	15.10.18	No	On web
17	BSAC letter with comments on the decisions taken at the October Council	12.12.18	12.2.19 from DG Mare, 6.3.19 from BALTFISH	On web
18	MARELITT II letter of support	30.1.19	E mail thanks	No
19	To BALTFISH on the amendment to the draft recommendation on T90 codend	01.02.19	Reply to letter from BALTFISH 18.1.19	Yes
20	BSAC responding to the Commission consultation on the evaluation of the eel regulation	4.3.19	1.4.19	On web
21	To COM, BALTFISH Presidency and MS directors on the outcome of the BSAC Theme meeting on eastern Baltic cod	4.3.19	From BALTFISH 26.3.19	On web
22	Reply to the letter from DG Mare regarding the situation of eastern cod	22.3.19	Letter from COM 27.2.19	On web

## **The meetings held by the BSAC 2018 -2019:**

### **Executive Committee, 8th May 2018, Copenhagen**

The Secretariat and ExCom chair presented for approval the draft financial statement for the year 2017-2018, the draft 12th annual report, as well as the draft work programme and draft estimated budget for the year 2018-2019. These were all approved for recommendation to the General Assembly.

The ExCom approved continued compensation for small scale fishermen to attend BSAC meetings. The Secretary also presented the final technical report 2017-2018 to DG Mare and this was also approved by the ExCom. The ExCom took note of reports from participation at the latest external meetings and decided on BSAC representation at the forthcoming meeting of EU-Russia. The ExCom agreed to hold a Focus Group drafting group to develop a response to the Commission's consultation of the ACs on the new Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs). The ExCom discussed, but decided not to create a working group to deal with recreational fisheries. A WWF representative gave a presentation on the work so far with the MARELITT project to remove derelict fishing gear. There was a presentation from DTU Aqua of modelling of the Baltic ecosystem and environmental impacts, and information given by a FLAG representative on transnational projects on seals and cormorants. On eel, the BSAC agreed to send a positive response to the Commission's roadmap concerning the evaluation of the eel regulation from 2007. There was a standing ovation to thank Reine J. Johansson, the outgoing ExCom chair for his work for the BSAC. In anticipation of the General Assembly agenda item to deal with the election of the BSAC Executive Committee chair, the honorary chair invited selected participants to an evening meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to discuss the options facing the General Assembly in terms of nominated candidates.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(1\)/ReportExCom080518FINALCORR.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(1)/ReportExCom080518FINALCORR.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **General Assembly, 9th May 2018, Copenhagen**

The BSAC honorary chair opened the meeting and referred to the important items on the agenda: the elections as well as proposals for amendments to the statutes. He called on members to work in a constructive way. Eva Kjer Hansen, minister responsible for fisheries in Denmark, underlined the importance of the work done by the BSAC, appreciated the cooperation between the BSAC and BALTFISH and thanked Reine J. Johansson, outgoing ExCom chair for his contribution. She encouraged a constructive and collaborative approach to working together. The BSAC Chair presented the annual report for the BSAC year 2017-2018, highlighting specific key areas of work during the year. The secretary presented the draft financial statement. The General Assembly approved the draft annual report and the draft financial statement for 2017-2018 and took note of the reports from the chairs of the BSAC working groups for the year.

It also took note of and approved the proposed work programme and draft estimated budget for 2018-2019 and approved the continuation of the current certified auditor for the 2017-2018 accounts. The General Assembly welcomed the two new members Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery and Danish Recreational Fishermen. The General Assembly decided to extend the ExCom to 30 members (18 representing the fisheries sector, and 12 representing OIG), with 3 seats vacant in the OIG. The General Assembly elected Steve Karnicki as the honorary chair for 2018-2021. The new Executive Committee unanimously appointed the chairs of the demersal and pelagic working groups (Michael Andersen and Mart Undrest). The honorary chair thanked the outgoing ExCom Chair for 12 years of work for the BSAC. He then presented the two nominations for the post of the ExCom chair. Before taking a decision on the two candidates put forward, the meeting adjourned and the Honorary chair called for a further meeting, including the participation of the EU representative, to continue discussions on the way forward towards electing a new BSAC chair. Some participants from the BSAC other interest group made clear to the chairman that they were unable to support the candidate put forward by the industry group, considering him too controversial. Various options were discussed, but none of them was accepted as a consensus recommendation to the General Assembly. The General Assembly did not elect the ExCom chair. It approved the recommendation from the group appointed by the honorary chair to appoint Steve Karnicki as acting BSAC ExCom chair until an extraordinary general assembly could be held.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-General-Assembly-meeting/GA08052018finalreport.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

### **BSAC hosted Stakeholder Workshop, Methods for Stakeholder Involvement in Fishing Gear Development, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, Copenhagen**

Stakeholder groups (fishing industry, scientists and managers met at the first day of this three-day workshop to provide feedback on the risks and potential problems associated with a more inclusive framework for working on fishing gear development, while gaining insight into how the different stakeholder groups perceive their role and the role of the other stakeholder groups. Science representatives presented their goals and insights. Industry representatives and managers presented their perceptions and explained their roles and how they can contribute. The meeting discussed and evaluated risks and problems as well as the roles of different stakeholders.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/ICES-Workshop-Methods-for-Stakeholder-Involvement/BSACreportICESBSACWorkshopWKMISGDFINALrev-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/ICES-Workshop-Methods-for-Stakeholder-Involvement/BSACreportICESBSACWorkshopWKMISGDFINALrev-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **Focus Group SCIPs (Specific Control and Inspection Programmes), 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, Copenhagen**

The Focus Group met in Copenhagen, with external links facilitated by web conference. Participants drafted a response to the four questions put to the Advisory Councils in their consultation paper on the SCIPs. They also provided additional input on eel. The draft reply on the SCIPs was sent to the meeting of the Joint Working Group 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June in Tallinn for further comments and then for finalisation and adoption at the ExCom meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-replies-to-the-Commission-s-letter-and-questi>

### **Joint Working Group, 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Tallinn**

The ICES/ACOM vice chair Colm Lordan presented to the WG the ICES advice for the Baltic for 2019, starting with the rules for the advice on fishing opportunities in relation to the specified management objectives and the different stock categories. After the presentation, including questions and answers, the floor was opened for discussion and the initial development of draft BSAC recommendations for the fishery for 2019. Different views on the advice and the fishing opportunities were noted. Western Baltic herring and the two cod stocks were those stocks that gave rise to most discussion and questions. The Secretariat was asked to produce, after the meeting, draft BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2019 for further development and finalisation at its ExCom meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Pascale Colson, DG Mare gave a presentation of the Commission's Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2019 and the Working Group took note. The Working Group took note of the comments made to the draft replies to the Commission's letter and questions about the SCIPs and decided to include them in the reply, which would be forwarded to the ExCom for final approval. The Working Group was reminded about the Commission's request for input to its request for information on experience with choke species and the draft table of replies being finalised by the Secretariat. The Commission representative conveyed a message from DG MARE to the BSAC, concerning the election of a new Chair for the BSAC and the honorary chair informed the meeting that internal consultations are taking place and that meanwhile he was pursuing the work programme issues in hand.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-working-group-meeting/BSACWG11\\_120618ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-working-group-meeting/BSACWG11_120618ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **Executive Committee, 28th June 2018, Copenhagen**

The ExCom took note of the explanations from the secretary on the expenditure incurred in the first months of the year 2018-2019 and problems experienced due to delayed authorisation of funding from the Commission. The acting chair informed of the initiative taken by him to propose an amendment of the BSAC statutes, so as to allow election of a chair from outside the BSAC. It was voted by correspondence by the General Assembly members and not supported by the required majority. The secretary informed of the BSAC's personal data policy. The ExCom adopted the BSAC reply to the Commission on the SCIPs and asked the Secretariat to forward it to the Commission. It was also noted that the BSAC replies to Commission questions on choke species would also be sent to the Commission. The ExCom discussed the draft BSAC recommendations for the fishery in the Baltic for 2019 and the ExCom adopted the document presented with amendments made. The director of the Danish herring processing factory "Fiskernes Filetfabrik" made a presentation of the socio-economic consequences of a western Baltic herring TAC set at zero. The Ex Com took note of a proposal from the OIG to create a focus group on written procedures and decided to give members more time to reflect on this and discuss it at a later stage. The ExCom took note of a report from the ICES workshop on stakeholder involvement in fishing gear development and of information on forthcoming meetings at which the BSAC would be represented. The ExCom discussed holding a joint HELCOM-BSAC-BALTFISH workshop on seals and interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems. A draft opinion concerning the existing EU ban of commercial use of seal products was discussed and the majority of the BSAC agreed to send a letter to the Commission with a request to amend the EU legislation on trade in seal products. Finally, the honorary chair confirmed that the planned Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November was to be replaced by an extraordinary General Assembly meeting.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(2\)/BSACExCom280618ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(2)/BSACExCom280618ReportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **BSAC Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, 23rd August 2018, Copenhagen**

The BSAC Joint Working Group was chaired by Michael Andersen, Demersal Working Group chair. The Working Group dealt with the Commission's proposal for a control regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control. This first meeting to deal with the proposal focused on the main topics and sub-topics presented in the Commission's proposal.

General comments from members highlighted particular concerns with reference to relevant articles. Participants agreed on the need for a control regulation and a level playing field. They agreed that there is no need for a regionalisation of the rules. It was also agreed that the rules have to be in compliance with the rules of the CFP and the Basic Regulation, as well as other relevant legislation.

The Working Group welcomed in the proposal the new detailed and exhaustive list of activities which would constitute serious infringements of the CFP rules. The meeting went on to deal with the main topics and sub-topics in the proposal, under specific headings. The meeting agreed to continue the work in more detail, by giving comments to specific articles, at a subsequent meeting. The Working Group also discussed a request for input from the Advisory Councils to MEP Gabriel Mato, the rapporteur of the European Parliament on specific items of the draft regulation on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, which was currently under negotiation between co-legislators. The Secretariat was asked to draft a reply.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Demersal-Pelagic-WG/BSACJointWGControl23082018reportFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

### **Ecosystem Based Management Working Group, 4th September 2018, Copenhagen**

The meeting was chaired by Nils Höglund. It dealt with eels and seals. On eel, the meeting dealt with the Commission's consultation to evaluate the eel management regulation 1100/2007 of 18th September 2007. The Working Group was asked to discuss the questions put forward in the letter from DG Mare Director General Aguiar Machado to the BSAC and to BALTFISH, sent on 5th June 2018, asking for input on measures to take in 2018 in order to promote the recovery of eels. The Working Group dealt with the questions referred to in the original request from the Commission and the Secretariat prepared draft replies as the discussions progressed. It was agreed that the WG chair would inform BALTFISH at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 of the discussions.

On seals, the Chair referred to the proposed joint HELCOM/BALTFISH workshop on seals and asked for topics and questions which should be brought up at the meeting. The Chair summarised the discussion by noting the key topics raised by the WG. The chair presented a draft statement on illegal seal hunting and invited the WG to adopt it. After discussions, members were invited to send further comments by written procedure. A letter was subsequently (15<sup>th</sup> October 2018) sent to BALTFISH and to HELCOM containing suggested items to be dealt with at the workshop on seals and forwarding a BSAC statement on the illegal killing of seals.

The WG took note of a reply from DG Mare to the BSAC letter from 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 on trade in seals.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Ecosystem-Based-Management-Working-Group/WGEBM04092018finalreport.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

## **BSAC meeting of fisheries interests representatives with the honorary chair, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Copenhagen**

The meeting held discussions on the selection of a candidate who would agree to run for the position as Executive Committee chair and have the respect and full support of the fisheries interest group. The meeting also had a brief discussion of the BSAC statutes, which was work in progress connected with the forthcoming Extraordinary General Assembly. General Assembly members were informed of the proceeds of this meeting.

## **BSAC Extraordinary General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, 6th November 2018, Gdynia**

### **The Extraordinary General Assembly**

Steve Karnicki, the BSAC honorary chair led the meeting, the main purpose of which was to elect the new ExCom chair. The representative of the Commission thanked the Honorary Chair for the efforts undertaken by him to solve the electoral deadlock. She underlined that the swift functioning of the BSAC was of great importance for the European Commission. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen was nominated as the new ExCom chair. The election of Esben Sverdrup-Jensen as BSAC chair was by applause/acclamation. The Honorary Chair stated that the work towards finding a candidate that all members can support had been difficult and lengthy. He thanked the Secretariat for the support given during the interim period between the elections. The meeting was invited to vote on a series of proposed amendments to the BSAC statutes. The General Assembly agreed on one amendment (Proposed amendment number 8: from the Honorary Chair: on the quorum requirement in Point 13) and rejected the other amendments. The General Assembly decided to establish a Focus Group to review the BSAC statutes and propose necessary amendments. The Focus Group was tasked to prepare a draft for consideration by the General Assembly in May 2019.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(3\)/ReportGA06112018FINAL-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(3)/ReportGA06112018FINAL-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **The Executive Committee**

The ExCom took note of the update on expenditure 2018-2019. The demersal and pelagic working group chairs reported on the outcome of the October Fisheries Council meeting to deal with fishing opportunities for the Baltic for their respective stocks. Michael Andersen, Chair of the Demersal Working Group referred to the Council decisions on the TACs for 2019 for the eastern and western cod stocks. He informed that an ICES benchmark working group was scheduled for February 2019 to find better ways to assess the eastern stock. Members had the chance to comment and ask questions. The Secretariat was asked to compile all the questions regarding the Council decisions and send them to the Commission and BALTFISH. Michael Andersen also gave a report of the work done at the Joint WG on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 to deal with the Commission's proposal for a revised Control Regulation. Mart Undrest, chair of the Pelagic WG informed of the state of play with work

on a rebuilding plan for western Baltic herring. Nils Höglund, the Chair of the Working Group on ecosystem based management informed of the work and outcome of the meeting held on 4th September 2018. At the request of one member of the ExCom, it was agreed to ask the Secretariat to produce a state of the art overview of the fisheries management in Natura 2000 sites in the Baltic Member States. The ExCom decided that the next ExCom meeting would be a BSAC “theme meeting” to invite experts to come and speak about relevant Baltic topics/problems facing the Baltic.

Link to the report:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(3\)/BSACreportExCom06112018FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(3)/BSACreportExCom06112018FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **BSAC Working Group to deal with control, 28th January 2019, Copenhagen**

The group carried on where it left off during the meeting of the Joint Working Group on 23rd August 2018, when it started discussions on the Commission's proposal for a revised control regulation. It dealt with the individual articles in the amended Regulation 1224/2009, of relevance to the BSAC. Work got as far as Article 55, Recreational fisheries. It was agreed for the Working Group to meet again to discuss the remaining articles and prepare its recommendations.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-working-group-control-reg/ReportBSACJointWG28012019FINALOK.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

### **Executive Committee, 29th January 2019, Copenhagen**

The ExCom Chair presented the draft work programme 2019-2020. He noted that in implementing its work programme for 2019-2020, the BSAC would be taking a dual approach: a long-term approach with focus on overarching issues, relating to the Common Fisheries Policy, and a short-term approach, covering specific meetings and activities, which will feed into the long-term approach and provide input. A discussion on the future Common Fisheries Programme would be initiated already now, in order to produce a communication from the BSAC to the Commission. He appealed to all the BSAC members to actively engage in this work. The ExCom adopted the draft estimated budget and the work programme for 2019-2020. The ExCom adopted the Terms of Reference for the BSAC Management Team and the Terms of Reference of the Focus Group to deal with statutes and written procedures. The ExCom decided that proposals for project support will be filtered by the Management Team. It was agreed to put general provisions concerning project support by the BSAC on the BSAC website.



### **ExCom Theme meeting: spotlight on eastern Baltic cod:**

The meeting took place with external links facilitated by web conference.

Scientists and experts were invited by the BSAC to present information on the state of the eastern Baltic cod stock, as well as the results of recent surveys, and to give supplementary information on predators and on the ecosystem. In their presentations, they made clear that the eastern Baltic cod is stressed by multiple factors. The participants had the opportunity to ask questions, discuss and draw conclusions. The meeting reinforced the accumulated knowledge that the eastern Baltic cod is in an acute critical state.

The meeting considered a draft statement calling on BALTFISH Member States and the Commission to take the matter seriously, to make it the primary priority, to make available the necessary resources for further research and react to the situation. The BSAC called for possible measures, including the use of emergency measures, to be explored in establishing an emergency plan for eastern Baltic cod. The draft statement was finalised and adopted in written procedure. It was sent to the Commission and BALTFISH.

Link to the reports:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(4\)/BSACExComThememeeting29012019REPORTandSTATEMENTFINALOK.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(4)/BSACExComThememeeting29012019REPORTandSTATEMENTFINALOK.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

### **BSAC Ecosystem Based Management Working Group, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Copenhagen**

The Working Group met, with external links facilitated by web conference.

The main item of the meeting was to update and discuss an overview of the fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 areas in the Baltic. Discussions were based on the four questions relating to Natura 2000 and dealt with in a paper produced by the Secretariat after agreement of the ExCom. Invited representatives from the Member States Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden informed on the processes linked to marine protected areas and the fisheries management measures in place or being developed. The invited HELCOM representative informed on the work on marine protected areas done by the HELCOM. Commission representatives from DG Mare and DG ENV replied to questions put by the WG and joined the discussions. The Working Group appreciated that the meeting had provided an opportunity for a dialogue between stakeholders and the Member States on conservation measures in protected areas and agreed to continue it in the future. The meeting concluded by defining some basic principles for work concerning fisheries management measures in protected areas.

Link to the report:

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Working-Group-on-Ecosystem-Based-Management/ReportBSACWGEBM13032019FINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

### **Focus Group on Statutes, 28th March 2019, Copenhagen**

The Focus Group met in Copenhagen, with external links facilitated by web conference. The aim of the meeting was to agree on a set of statutes and procedures that are simple and cover all necessary points. The Focus Group decided to change the heading from Statutes to the Rules of Procedure of the BSAC, as more appropriate for a set of provisions that also includes operating principles of the BSAC.

After going through the entire document, the Focus Group decided to ask the Secretariat to re-structure the entire document, so as to make it simpler and easier to read. The Focus Group noted that the draft Procedures for the Development and Presentation of BSAC Advice (submitted by ExCom member Lindsay Keenan) contained practices already followed by the BSAC and after redrafting, it could be used as a best practices document.

The Focus Group decided to continue its work by written procedure and send the final draft to the General Assembly in advance of its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

A report from the meeting was sent to the BSAC ExCom (not put on website).

### **BSAC Secretariat meetings/Management Team meetings/IT meetings**

#### **Management Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Copenhagen**

The BSAC ExCom chair invited the vice chair, honorary chair and secretariat to a meeting in Copenhagen to prepare and finalise the agendas for the forthcoming ExCom and General Assembly meetings in May. They also finalised the final draft technical report 2017-2018 to the Commission as well as the BSAC draft annual report: both to be presented to the ExCom meeting. There is no written report from this meeting.

#### **Secretariat Meeting organized for the new BSAC ExCom chair, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Copenhagen**

The meeting was attended by the BSAC Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Honorary Chair, the Chair of the Demersal Working Group, the Chair of the EBM Working Group, the BSAC Secretary and Rapporteur. The Chair of the Pelagic Working Group sent his apologies. The aim of the meeting was to take stock, look forward and consider BSAC work and meetings, as well as external meetings for the year to come. The meeting supported the idea to establish a management team to deal with administrative and practical issues. It was agreed that the Vice-chair would draft the Terms of Reference of the management team. It was confirmed that the ExCom meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 would include “a theme session” to invite experts to come and speak about relevant Baltic topics/problems facing the Baltic and to focus on the eastern cod. The meeting proposed dates for the BSAC meetings until the end of June 2019. A short report was produced from the meeting and sent to ExCom (not put on website).

### **IT meeting, 12th and 26th March 2019, Copenhagen**

The Secretariat met the IT expert to carry out the annual check-up of all computers and to install new software.

### **External meetings during the year where BSAC members took part:**

“The BSAC will take part in relevant external meetings “

Many relevant meetings have already been referred to above. Key fora and meetings for the BSAC have been: Commission hosted and arranged meetings, BALTFISH, EFCA, ICES, HELCOM, as well as relevant conferences, seminars and annual meetings. All meetings are reported on and documented.

Below is a list of these meetings and the BSAC representatives who took part<sup>13</sup>:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Name</b>
Baltic Sea Checkpoint Project, Final meeting	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Copenhagen	Reine J. Johansson, Sally Clink
DG Mare: informal meeting future actions to reduce plastic waste from fishing sector	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Brussels, by webex, no travel	Michael Andersen, Nils Höglund, Mart Undrest, Krzysztof Stanuch, Sophie Smedegaard Hansen, Ewa Milewska, Sally Clink
Marine Stewardship Council, Annual meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Copenhagen	Sally Clink
Danish Fishermen PO Annual General Assembly	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Vejle	Andrzej Białas
ICES WKMSIGD Stakeholder Workshop Methods for Stakeholder Involvement in Fishing Gear Development Organised together with the BSAC	22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Copenhagen	Michael Andersen, Staffan Larsson, Krzysztof Stanuch
HELCOM FISH 8 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable	23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Warsaw	Andrzej Białas, Ewa Milewska

<sup>13</sup> Reports from BSAC members and/or the Secretariat are available from the Secretariat

Fisheries			
European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations: The reformed CFP: an analysis of what went wrong what went well and what should the next CFP look like: (and how to build trust)	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018	Brussels	Sally Clink
Blue Growth Strategy, the impacts of ecosystems and digital technology and the possibilities of food from our oceans.	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Brussels	Sally Clink
BALTFISH Forum	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Copenhagen	Steve Karnicki, Andrzej Białas, Michael Andersen, Mart Undrest, Krzysztof Stanuch, Staffan Larsson, Sally Clink,
Thünen Institute, Workshop on regionalisation of the CFP	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018	Brussels	Steve Karnicki
ICES WKCONGA Workshop to evaluate the effect of CONservation measures on Eastern Baltic cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Copenhagen	Michael Andersen, Lindsay Keenan
BALTFISH Forum	5 <sup>th</sup> September	Stockholm	Steve Karnicki, Andrzej Białas, Nils Höglund, Michael Andersen, Sally Clink
Commission Science Seminar	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Brussels	Michael Andersen, Andrzej Białas
MSC Annual conference	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Warsaw	Ewa Milewska

11 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission, EU-Russia	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Moscow	Krzysztof Stanuch
EFCA Advisory Board and celebration of EFCA's 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Vigo	Steve Karnicki
Nordic Marine Think Tank Optimizing sustainable fishing yields - ecosystem and management perspectives	10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Copenhagen	Sally Clink
EU Fishmeal Conference: Forage fish, marine mammals, and optimal fisheries yield	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Copenhagen	Sally Clink
Inter-AC meeting between ACs and Commission	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Brussels	Steve Karnicki, Sally Clink, Ewa Milewska
LEADER project on small scale and recreational fishermen in Øresund/The Sound	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Helsingør	Sally Clink
Commission workshop on digital tools for monitoring and reporting catches for small scale fisheries (SSF)	4 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Brussels	Wolfgang Albrecht, Kim Kær Hansen, Benjamin Schmöde
Annual meetings with ICES: MIAC and MIACO	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Copenhagen	Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, Michael Andersen, Nils Höglund, Sally Clink
Discardless Final conference	30 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	Copenhagen	Michael Andersen, Lindsay Keenan, Sally Clink
HELCOM FISH 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries	30 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	Tallinn	Nils Höglund
EUROFISH Governing Council	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	Copenhagen	Sally Clink

WKBALTCOD2 Benchmark Workshop on Baltic Cod Stocks	4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Copenhagen	Nils Höglund and Michael Andersen
DG Mare: Exchange of views on circular design of fishing gear	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Brussels and webex	Krzysztof Stanuch, Jan Kappel, Ewa Milewska
EFCA Advisory Board meeting	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Brussels	Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Conference on fully documented fisheries,	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Copenhagen	Sally Clink
MARE Foundation shipwreck conference on oil spills	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Warsaw	Ewa Milewska
BALTFISH Symposium on seal-fishery interactions	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Gothenburg	Michael Andersen, Nils Höglund, Malin Lönnroth, Justyna Zajchowska,
Meeting with MEP Gabriel Mato and MEP Jaroslaw Wałęsa, vice-chair of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Gdynia	Krzysztof Stanuch

### **Scientific experts and special guests invited to BSAC meetings during the year**

#### **Executive Committee meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Sieme Bossier and Rasmus Nielsen, DTU Aqua

Marta Kalinowska, WWF Poland

Esko Taanila, Baltic Sea Seal and Cormorant TNC project and Southern Finland FLAG ESKO.

Elisa Roller, DG Mare

**General Assembly meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Eva Kjer Hansen, Minister for fisheries and equal opportunities and Minister for Nordic cooperation  
Elisa Roller, DG Mare

**BSAC Joint Working Group on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Tallinn**

Colm Lordan, ICES/ACOM vice chair  
Pascale Colson, DG Mare

**Executive Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Copenhagen**

Benny Christensen, Director Fiskernes Filetfabrik A/S

**Executive Committee meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Copenhagen**

Lennart Balk, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences  
Jane Behrens, DTU Aqua  
Keith Brander, DTU Aqua  
Margit Eero, DTU Aqua  
Lotte Kindt-Larsen, DTU Aqua  
Marie Storr-Paulsen, DTU Aqua  
Krzysztof Radtke, National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Gdynia  
Marie Plambech Ryberg, DTU Aqua (observer)

**Working Group on ecosystem based management 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Copenhagen**

Anja Gadgård Boye and Mads Nørgaard Larsen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark  
Christian von Dorrien, Thünen Institute  
Jannica Haldin, HELCOM  
Bruno Hoffstadt, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Joakim Hjelm, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences  
Paweł Łazarski, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Economy and Inland Navigation  
Ula Linkute, DG Mare  
Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment  
Malin Wilhelmsson, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

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**Keeping the BSAC members informed**

BSAC members have received regular newsletters from the BSAC Secretariat. There has been a total of 11 during the year. These have also been made available to observers and put on the BSAC website.

The BSAC Executive Committee has received regular letters with updates and notifications: 14 during the year.

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### **Provision of meeting rooms**

The BSAC Secretariat says a big thank you to the Ministry of Environment in Estonia for providing a meeting room in June this year.

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## Members of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

<b>Fisheries Interests (30)</b>	
The Fishermen's Association of Bornholm and Christiansø	Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation
Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation	Marine Ingredients Denmark
Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation	Estonian Fishermen's Association
Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery	Finnish Fishermen's Association (Sumonen Ammattikalastajaliitto)
Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations	German Cutter-and Coastal-Fishermen's Association
Bundesverband der Deutschen Fishindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels E.V.	Association of Fisheries Protection (Fischereischutzverband)
Union of German Cutter Fishery	Lithuanian Fisheries Producers' Association
Latvian Fisheries Association	Association of Fishermen's of Sea- PO
The Confederation of Fishermen and Fish Processors of West Lithuania	Kołobrzeg Group of Producers Fish
National Chamber of Fish Producers	Darłowska Group of Fish Producers and Shipowners
Polish Association of Fish Processors	Sweden Pelagic Federation PO (SPF)
The Fishermen Fish Producers Organisation ORL-PR	The Swedish Fishermen Producer Organisation
Swedish Fishermen Federation	Fishermen's Federation for Small-Scale Fishery in Sweden
Åland Islands Fishermen's Association	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association - Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish
European Transport Workers' Federation	Danish Recreational Fishermen
<b>Other Interest Groups (12)</b>	
OCEANA	Fisheries Management Gotland, regional co-management of fisheries
Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation	The Fisheries Secretariat
BalticSea 2020	Coalition Clean Baltic
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation	German Angling Association
European Anglers Alliance	CIPS International Confederation for Sport Fishing
World Wide Fund for Nature	Polish Ecological Club

## **Changes to membership during the year**

The list of ExCom members applies from 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (when elections were held for the three-year period 2018-2021). The ExCom was extended to 30 members. See website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Members/Executive-Committee>

When Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation was elected ExCom chair, he was replaced on ExCom by Lise Laustsen and her substitute is Claus Reedtz Sarrevohn.

On the General Assembly the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation informed that their representative is Therese Jacobson.

From the Fisheries Management Gotland, regional co-management of fisheries, Rolf Gydeno retired and is replaced by Andreas Pettersson.

## **Applications/New members in 2018-2019**

The Danish Recreational Fishermen

The Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery

The Fishermen Fish Producers Organisation ORL-PR

## **And who left at the end of the year**

European Transport Workers' Federation

Note: Members are encouraged to check the website and make sure the details are correct

## **The BSAC chairs and Secretariat**

### **Chairperson of the BSAC ExCom**

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### **Honorary chairperson of the BSAC General Assembly**

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### **Vice Chair of the BSAC**

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### **Demersal Working Group chair**

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### **Pelagic Working Group chair**

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### **Ecosystem based management working group chair**

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