



**Sixth Annual Report of the
Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council
April 2012**

Introduction

This annual report gives an account of the activities of the BS RAC's sixth year from 16th March 2011 -15th March 2012.

The full reports from all the BS RAC meetings, as well as the recommendations, are on the BS RAC website: www.bsrac.org.

The main results achieved by the BS RAC during the year 2011 – 2012

Below is a short account of the BSRAC priorities set out for 2011 - 2012.

Continued focus on the long-term management of stocks

This has been an on-going priority in the work of the BSRAC. This year it has focused on the Commission's proposal for a multi-annual plan for salmon, as well as initial work on preparing the framework for multi-species management for pelagic and cod stocks.

The previous BSRAC year ended in March 2011 without the prospect of the Commission tabling any proposal for multi- annual management plans. Legal issues have been delaying the launching of proposals on LTMPs, the main stumbling block being disagreement between Council and Parliament on who decides on the harvest control rules.

Salmon

On 12th August 2011, the Commission presented its proposal for a multi-annual management plan for salmon. The BSRAC had to hold two Salmon WGs this year to produce a set of recommendations. The first working group took place on 2nd November 2011 in Gothenburg where the work focused on specific issues in the proposal where it was hoped that consensus could be reached. The WG chair and rapporteur had held meetings with representatives from the professional fishery, recreational and environmental groups in advance of the working group. However the differences of opinion were too far apart. In particular, differences surrounding the phasing out of compensatory releases, the targets for wild river salmon stocks and the proposed fishing mortality rate for sea fishery were too diverse for the working group to reach consensus. The results from the meeting were sent to the Executive Committee held on 11th/12th January 2012. It was impossible for the ExCom to reach a conclusion, and the Salmon working group was encouraged to try one more time to produce recommendations from the BSRAC. On 31st January 2012 the working group met again and worked on the basis of a draft text prepared in advance of the meeting. Broad consensus by most of the working group members was reached on a set of recommendations, which deals in particular with targets for wild salmon rivers, harvesting rules by TACs, releases, the requirement to keep a logbook, catch declarations, reporting by member states and fin clipping. The paper does not represent a unanimous view, and minority positions from some eNGOs and the European Anglers Association are

recorded. The recommendations were adopted by a written procedure and then sent to DG Mare. The BSRAC awaits a response to its recommendations.

Multi-species management

Work on the long term management of other Baltic stocks – the pelagic stocks as well as cod - has remained in its early stages during the BSRAC year. No proposal has yet been tabled by DG Mare. At the start of the year, in March 2012, the BSRAC Pelagic WG expressed regret at the lack of knowledge on what elements the long term management plan would contain. It saw this in strong contrast to the development of the LTMP for cod, where the BSRAC had had good experience with the involvement of the scientists. The WG was informed that DG Mare was planning to write an impact assessment, and then consult the RAC. At the same time, DG Mare was awaiting the outcome on consultations with the European Parliament in order to establish the key elements of the LTMP.

No specific BSRAC working groups have been held in the meantime to prepare opinions or input on this. But significantly, the BSRAC has had the opportunity to become closely involved in the scientific process during the year with ICES and STECF in to develop multispecies models as the basis for providing management advice. BSRAC members were invited to an STECF multi-species scoping meeting in Edinburgh on 28th November – 2nd December 2011. This meeting had several objectives: to identify which fisheries and fleets are to be included; to identify the priority for multiple objectives (i.e. among single species and socio-economic objectives); and to identify regulatory measures most likely to be implemented to reach the objectives of a long-term multi-species plan. Biologists should identify data currently available on species interaction in the Baltic. Economists should identify socio-economic data available to evaluate the socio-economic aspects of different management strategy and objectives. Finally, biologists and economists should describe modelling frameworks already developed to analyse multispecies interactions and evaluate multispecies objectives.

Similarly, the BSRAC was invited to the ICES scoping meeting on multi-species management for the Baltic in Copenhagen on 16th December 2011, and then to the ICES WKMULTBALT workshop in Copenhagen on 6th - 8th March 2012 in Copenhagen. The aim of both meetings was to evaluate integrated and multispecies models for use as the basis of multi-species management advice in the Baltic. (This work was then carried forward early into the new BSRAC year with an STECF multi-species meeting in Rostock on 26th -27th March 2012).

BSRAC members from both sides of the organisation have consistently taken part at these meetings and been very positive about the opportunity to follow the development work and to provide input. Participation at these meetings has to a large extent replaced BSRAC demersal and pelagic working groups during the year.

At the Executive committee meeting on 11th/12th January 2012 Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) gave a very brief summary of the work done so far by STECF and ICES to draw up multi-species management advice. He pointed out that one of the burning issues was that of spatial distribution: there was a mis-match between sprat and cod, whereby cod has a much narrower distribution; so there had been a lot of discussions on how to build that into a management plan.

For the time being, the chairs of the Demersal and Pelagic working groups have thought it premature to hold working groups too early on in the process. When they do so, they agreed that it would be logical to hold a joint demersal and pelagic working group. Those scientists leading the STECF work and coordinating the ICES work would be invited to the BSRAC to explain the process.

Work on the revision of the management plan for cod

This was already taken up at the Demersal WG in Gdynia on 22nd March 2011. The BSRAC Demersal WG took note of progress being made with the on-going work on the ICES/STECF evaluation of the long-term management plan for cod in the Baltic. The BSRAC had taken part at the STECF/ICES meeting on LTMPs 28th Feb – 4th March 2011. The BSRAC then anticipated a new STECF meeting in June on the evaluation of the Baltic cod management plan. This took place at an ICES-STECF Multi-annual management plans meeting in Hamburg 20th -24th June 2011, part of which was dedicated to the evaluation of the cod plan.

BSRAC members also took part at this meeting. At the Executive Committee meeting in Copenhagen on 28th June 2011, the Demersal WG chairman Michael Andersen reported on this meeting and highlighted three major outcomes from this work: target mortality, closures (spawning and summer closures), and effort restrictions. The work has not progressed any further, partly due to the developments with multi-species management in the Baltic. No Demersal WGs have been held to deal with this.

The setting of TACs and quotas on an annual basis

As in previous years, this has again been dealt with at a regular annual Joint WG which took place in Copenhagen on 8th-9th June 2011.

The Baltic stocks advice was released on 27th May 2011 and this year also included the Baltic herring by releasing the North Sea herring advice in advance of the other N. Sea stocks. This is something that the BSRAC has been calling for.

ICES representative Carl O'Brien presented the advice again this year. Stanislovas Jonusas gave a representation of the Commission's Communication on fishing opportunities for 2011.

The working group discussions concerning cod and pelagic stocks showed an increasing awareness of the interaction between the stocks. In particular for cod in sub-divisions 25 -32 there were differing views on what the implications would be for pelagic stocks of adhering to the long-term management plan for cod, rather than applying a TAC in line with the MSY target. This was seen in relation to the fact that in addition to giving advice based on management plans in force, ICES also provided advice based on MSY or an MSY transition.

The working group provided a report from its meeting and subsequently drew up draft recommendations which were discussed at length by the Excom meeting on 28th June 2012. A set of recommendations which were not unanimous on all stocks was approved by written procedure and sent to DG Mare on 12th July 2012.

On cod there was no unanimous position on how to set the TACs for the Baltic in 2012. The biological assessments of the two cod stocks were not contested, but there was not unanimity in recommending adhering to the management plan because of the influence on the sprat stock and because of MSY considerations.

For herring in Subdivision 30 (Bothnian Sea), the BSRAC recommended the ICES advice of a rollover, and for herring in Subdivision 31 (Bothnian Bay), the BSRAC took note of the ICES advice that catches should not increase. For herring in IIIa 22-24, the BSRAC endorsed the ICES advice that on the basis of the MSY framework, catches in 2012 should be no more than 42 700 tonnes.

For herring in Subdivision 25-29 and 32 (excluding Gulf of Riga herring) the majority of BSRAC members recommended a TAC set at 116 000 tonnes, and there was a minority position from four members who recommended an MSY transition. The majority of BSRAC members recommended a rollover on herring in Subdivision 28.1 (Gulf of Riga), and there was a minority position from four members who again recommended the MSY transition.

For sprat in Sub-division 22-32 (Baltic Sea), most BSRAC members recommended a rollover of the current TAC, whilst there was a minority position from six member organisations recommending an MSY transition.

For flatfish the BSRAC recommended that the Commission call on ICES to upgrade the work on flatfish in the Baltic. The WG was also appreciative of the work done by ICES to produce qualitative assessments for the flatfish stocks which hitherto have not been subject to advice.

For plaice, the BSRAC recommended a TAC in 2012 set at the same level as it was in 2011.

On salmon the BSRAC agreed not to produce recommendations until it had held a meeting with ICES to discuss the advice in more detail.

Following on from these recommendations, the BSRAC sent a letter to DG Mare regarding effort management in the cod fishery and asked the Commission to investigate the legal possibilities for introducing flexibility into the allocation of days at sea to enable Baltic fishermen to take advantage of the increase in the cod stocks as a result of adhering to the cod recovery plan.

Salmon - a special case

It was agreed that there was a clear need for a further meeting to explain in more detail how the assessment was undertaken and how the advice was derived. This took place in Copenhagen on 17th August 2011. The meeting was co-chaired by BSRAC salmon WG chair Gunnar Asplund and Carl O'Brien, ICES, ACOM Vice-chair. The meeting dealt with the issue of Polish misreporting salmon as sea trout and reported low catches of salmon compared to fishing effort. It also discussed the ICES model and establishing the reference point for potential smolt production capacity, as well as post-smolt survival and pre-fish abundance and the reasons behind the decline, and finally the ICES advice and TAC levels chosen. Johan Dannewitz, Chair of ICES Working Group on Baltic Salmon and Trout (WGBAST), explained the origin of the ICES advice, and that the decrease in potential smolt production capacity is the result of the low pre-fishery abundance. The meeting was productive and gave everyone a better understanding of the advice, especially on the model and the data used. However, the discussions also left some issues in need of further review, especially the issue of misreporting in the Polish salmon and sea trout fishery and how to determine potential smolt production capacity in the different rivers of the Baltic.

After the meeting, the BSRAC wrote to ICES to ask them to investigate the mis-reporting of Polish catches of sea trout further and draw conclusions, if necessary and to investigate and evaluate fixing the potential smolt production capacity based on an average of the historic smolt production.

Later in the year, after the salmon and sea trout working group on 2nd November 2011, the BSRAC wrote to DG Mare about the unreported or misreported catches in the salmon fishery in the Baltic and underline its appeal for a full investigation into this and over a long time period, so as to get as fully informed a picture as possible of the Baltic salmon fishery.

Selectivity of the cod fishery

After a lot of activity and effort during the previous BSRAC year, the BSRAC has not made any progress this year on selectivity. The BSRAC put forward its own project on selectivity back in 2009, but funding was not forthcoming.

The aim of the BSRAC Simrishamn workshop on discards in January 2011 (reported on last year) was to keep the discussion on selectivity and discards on the agenda and to feed ideas into the Commission project tender: "Collaboration between the scientific community and the fishing sector to minimize discards in the Baltic cod fisheries." A consortium of institutes from some Baltic member states had applied and the BSRAC waited to hear the results of the tender and hoped that the institutions that won the tender would take contact with the BSRAC.

The BSRAC wrote to the Baltic member states to inform them about the workshop and to encourage them to support projects that focused on reducing discards.

The decision on the Commission project tender was made much later in the year. It was awarded to a consortium of research institutes from Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden, led by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Aquatic Resources. The project was presented at the ExCom meeting in January 2012. In addition to a desktop study to look at the fish and its behaviour, the involvement of stakeholders would be sought by means of a questionnaire directed at the BSRAC to obtain more information from the fishermen. BSRAC members expressed mixed reactions to the project which they considered very academic. A workshop is planned for the end of May so as to have a discussion with the stakeholders and the BSRAC will be invited.

To continue to contribute to a successful Common Fisheries Policy – in other words, with continued reflections and contributions to the revision of the CFP

The reflections and contributions have focused on regionalisation. This was encouraged by a senior government official under the Danish Presidency who, at the January 2012 ExCom meeting, asked directly what regionalisation (or sea basin approach, as it was re-termed) could mean. He invited input from the

BSRAC. The question was also whether Baltfish in its current form would remain like that in its final form. There was agreement by the ExCom to arrange a meeting to discuss regionalisation and to write to member states in order to have a dialogue on this.

The BSRAC held a Focus Group meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2012 to discuss regionalisation. It agreed that regionalisation is one of the main pillars of the reform of the CFP, as well as an important element of European integration in general and agreed on the commitment of the BSRAC to have a role in the future regionalised policy for the Baltic Sea. In order to clarify exactly how it will operate in practice the Focus Group drafted an invitation to the Baltic member states within the framework of Baltfish to a joint high level meeting to discuss the practicalities of regionalisation in the Baltic area and with the aim of developing the idea of regionalisation further.

The Finnish chair of Baltfish has written back and welcomed the proposal to meet and welcomed the commitment by the BSRAC to have a role in a future regionalised policy for the Baltic. Quite how regionalisation will work is not yet clear, and the Finnish presidency is working on a draft on how Baltfish could work in practice. The next Baltfish meeting is expected to take place on 21st May 2012 and BSRAC representatives will be invited.

Continued cooperation with international and regional organisations dealing with fisheries, as well as scientific institutes.

Participation in meetings and workshops where it can make a contribution to the work and debate on fisheries

These two headings are merged. The list further below speaks for itself in terms of how BSRAC members are taking part at other meetings and activities on behalf of the BSRAC.

Already highlighted are the scientific meetings with ICES and STECF to develop the long term multi species management and to evaluate the cod plan.

Participation at Baltfish, as well as the HELCOM fisheries/environment Forum should also be mentioned. Both are held twice a year and often back-to-back. The BSRAC is invited to the Baltfish forum to discuss fisheries issues together with member states, the Commission and other interest groups. The fisheries/environment forum is usually held at HELCOM HQ often deal with fisheries management issues which are of relevance to the BSRAC.

The GAP2 project: Bridging the gap between science, stakeholders and policy makers. Here the BSRAC is involved in two of the projects: Mapping Baltic Fisheries in support of Marine Spatial Planning and Management plans for herring in ICES IIIa and adjacent areas; perceptions of stocks and fisheries. The BSRAC has given its support to the GAP2 project and decided to give it priority over other research projects.

The BSRAC has attended the regular meetings of the RACs with the Commission, Fisheries Control Agency meeting of the Advisory Board and Administrative Board, as well as the annual MIRAC meeting between ICES the RACs.

Added to this have been Hearings at the European Parliament, as well as Annual General Assemblies and seminars and conferences to which the BSRAC has been invited to attend, sometimes with a guest speaker.

Participation at Commission and Control Agency meetings is reimbursed. Expenses at other meetings are sometimes covered by the host of the meeting or the relevant project, although this is generally the exception rather than the rule. With regard to the future economy of the BSRAC it may require hard choices as to whether to give priority to in-house activities and meetings.

To endeavor to make links and work with the European Parliament more systematic

This is proving to be easier said than done. There have been Commission (DG Mare), Control Agency and member state representatives at pretty much every working group, ExCom or General Assembly during the year. Members of the European Parliament have been informed of and invited to activities and meetings throughout the year, but have been unable to attend. Closer relations have developed on the salmon

dossier: Bart Telejko, Policy Adviser to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group, took part at the Salmon working group on 31st January 2012.

In short on the BSRAC meetings held during the year

Demersal WG Gdynia, 22nd March 2011

The WG discussed the outcome of its BSRAC workshop on discards, held on 9th-10th February 2011 and agreed to write to member states to inform them about the workshop and to encourage them to support projects that focused on reducing discards. An ICES affiliated scientist gave a presentation on the state of the cod stocks in advance of the ICES Baltic working group to prepare the assessment and advice for 2012, and a BSRAC member presented work on the development of the cod ends in the cod fishery. There was a report from a Commission workshop on effort management and subsequent discussion on this subject, as well as discussion of the on-going work on the ICES/STECF evaluation of the long-term management plan for cod in the Baltic

Pelagic WG Gdynia, 23rd March 2011

The WG chair gave an update on pelagic issues relevant for the BSRAC, and BSRAC members reported on the status of the pelagic fishery. Sprat was given particular focus with respect to data availability and it was decided to set up a task force to look into this. There was an update on the status of the LTMP for pelagic stocks. There were reports from the JAKFISH project, the ICES workshop WATSUP to look at levels of herring mixing, and from the FACTS workshop looking into the Baltic ecosystem.

Executive Committee Riga, 5th May 2011

The ExCom agreed to re-elect vice chair Ewa Milewska (WWF Poland) and to recommend an amendment of the statutes to allow for a three year position of the vice chair. There was a presentation by a Danish representative on practices in Denmark to limit accidents and promote safe working practices at sea, and by an Estonian representative of the GAP2 project Mapping Baltic Fisheries in support of Marine Spatial Planning. There were updates from the recently held Demersal and Pelagic WGs. There was a presentation of two consultation processes (Maritime Spatial Planning and trade measures) being carried out by DG Mare and confirmation by the ExCom members of their wish to take part and to send a response. The BSRAC subsequently sent responses by letter. The Secretariat presented the accounts and draft final report for the year 2010 –2011 for approval, as well as the draft work programme and draft budget for the year 2011 – 2012 for approval. These were all approved for recommendation to the General Assembly.

General Assembly Riga, 6th May 2011

General Assembly members received an opening address by the Latvian minister of Agriculture Jānis Dūklavs and received an update by DG Mare Director Carla Montesi on fisheries issues relevant to the Baltic. There were reports to the General Assembly from the working group chairmen. The General Assembly approved the draft annual report and the draft annual accounts for 2010 – 2011, as well as the proposed work programme and draft estimated budget for 2011–2012. It approved the continuation of the current certified auditor for the 2011-2012 accounts, as well as the appointment of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation as member organisation to the ExCom. It took note of the re-election by the ExCom of the vice-chair and approved an amendment of the BSRAC statutes so as to enable a three-year position of the ExCom vice-chair.

Joint WG (Demersal, Pelagic and Salmon/sea trout) Copenhagen, 8th -9th June 2011

An ICES scientist presented the ICES advice for the Baltic stocks for 2012, and DG Mare representatives presented the Commission's Policy Statement on Fishing Opportunities. There was a discussion of the advice and the policy statement and agreement by the WG to draft recommendations and comments for the ExCom to discuss and approve at its coming meeting.

Executive Committee Copenhagen, 28th June 2011

A Polish government representative went through the fisheries priorities, agenda and timetable of meetings for the Polish presidency. There was a report from the latest meeting in the series of meetings to evaluate the cod management plan, as well as reports from recent Baltfish and HELCOM meetings. ExCom members went through the draft recommendations to the ICES advice and comments to the Commission's policy paper. It was agreed to re-formulate some of the texts and to put them for approval by the ExCom in a written procedure. There was a presentation by an ICES affiliated scientist of the western Baltic herring and

of the involvement by the BSRAC in the GAP2 project. A representative from the Danish Maritime Safety Administration presented safety at sea under the EU's Baltic Sea Strategy and invited the BSRAC to be lead agent. A representative from the Danish National Environmental Research gave an update of the SAMBAH project static acoustic monitoring of Baltic Sea harbour porpoises.

Joint Salmon WG with ICES Copenhagen, 17th August 2011

An ICES scientist explained to the WG how the ICES assessment model for salmon works and how the projections are possible, based on many kinds of data. The meeting dealt with Polish misreporting of salmon at sea, reported low catches of salmon compared to fishing effort, the ICES model and establishing the reference point for PSC, post-smolt survival and pre-fish abundance and the reasons behind the decline and the ICES advice and TAC levels chosen. The WG agreed that the BSRAC would write to DG Mare about misreporting of catches and to hold another meeting to deal with the proposal for a long-term management plan for salmon.

Salmon and sea trout WG Gothenburg, 2nd November 2011

The WG met to deal with the Commission proposal for a regulation to establish a multi-annual plan for Baltic salmon stocks. It discussed specific points in the Commission proposal on the basis of a mapping paper prepared in advance by the rapporteur. A text was subsequently drawn up on the basis of discussions with the aim to conclude at the forthcoming Executive Committee. The WG also agreed to draft a letter to the Commission encouraging an investigation into the salmon fishery.

Executive Committee Copenhagen, 11th + 12th January 2012

The ExCom approved the draft budget and work programme for 2012 -2013. It was unable to endorse a common text with recommendations on a multi-annual plan for salmon and agreed that another meeting of the WG would be held. The appointment of a new chair for the Pelagic WG, Mart Undrest (Estonian Fishermen's Association) was confirmed. It took note of the developments of specific projects under the GAP2 project, of reports from various meetings where BSRAC members had been represented, of the programme for the Danish Presidency and of a presentation by the new Executive Director for the EFCA. There was a presentation of a Danish project to improve energy efficiency in the cod trawl fishery, and of status on the Commission awarded LOT project: "Collaboration between the scientific community and the fishing sector to minimize discards in Baltic cod fisheries. The ExCom agreed to be lead agent for the flagship project under the EU Baltic Sea Strategy: to develop a plan to reduce accidents in the fisheries.

Salmon WG Copenhagen, 31st January 2012

On the basis of a draft text produced in advance, the WG discussed and agreed on a draft set of recommendations to the Commission's proposal for a multi-annual plan. It was sent to the ExCom for approval by written procedure.

Focus Group on regionalisation Copenhagen, 28th February 2012

The Focus Group met to discuss regionalisation and to draft a letter to national administrations and to the Commission to propose a meeting under the framework of Baltfish to discuss the practicalities of regionalisation in the Baltic area. The letter was sent to member states and DG Mare after written consultation of the ExCom.

External meetings where BSRAC members represented the BSRAC

The BSRAC has continued to be represented at a large number of other fisheries related meetings, conferences, workshops etc.

1. **Meeting with the Swedish Agriculture Ministry Stockholm, 16th and 17th March 2011**
Reine J. Johansson, (BSRAC chair): to talk about CFP reform and the role of the RACs in the future CFP
2. **Commission Conference on the future of local development in fisheries areas, Brussels, 12th - 13th April 2011**
Roar Schou, (European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions)
3. **Annual General Assembly of the Danish Fishermen's Association, Vejle, 30th April 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)

4. **European Parliament Fisheries Committee public hearing: "How much fish can be caught?" Brussels, 3rd May 2011**
Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair) and Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
5. **Commission Stakeholder conference on discards Brussels, 3rd May 2011**
Reine J. Johansson, (BSRAC chair), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) and Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
6. **Danish Ministry Workshop: Status and prospects for Catch Quota Management (CQM) Copenhagen, 17-18th May 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
7. **EFARO (European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisation) Conference, Sopot, Poland 23rd -26th May 2011**
Steve Karnicki, (BSRAC honorary chair)
8. **The B7 conference: "Maintaining the traditional coastal fishery with regard to the current EU-fisheries policy" Sassnitz Town Hall, Rügen Island, 24th -25th May 2011**
Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair) and Peter Breckling (Union of German Cutter Fishery)
9. **Meeting with Swedish authorities at the Swedish Board of Fisheries, Gothenburg, 26th May 2011**
Reine J Johansson (BSRAC chair): to discuss developments in selectivity and prospects for the BSRAC project on selectivity.
10. **GAP2 : kick-off meeting, London, 7th June 2011**
Niki Sporrang (Fisheries Secretariat)
11. **HELCOM Fisheries/Environment Forum, Stockholm, 13th June 2011**
Malin Lönroth (Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations, Alex Olsen (Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish)
12. **BALTFISH meeting Stockholm, 14th June 2011**
Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair), Ewa Milewska (BSRAC vice chair), Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
13. **STECF EWG 11-07 / ICES WKROUNDMP Hamburg, 20th -24th June 2011**
Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair), Kim Kær Hansen (Danish Fishermen's Association), Magnus Eckeskog (Fisheries Secretariat)
14. **Meeting of the Joint Committee under the Fisheries Agreement EU-Russia Brussels, 29th and 30th June 2011**
Kim Kær Hansen, (Danish Fishermen's Association)
15. **WWF Seminar on The challenges of fisheries management and how to address them successfully in the new CFP, Sea Fisheries Institute Gdynia, 27th July 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
16. **Dialogue meeting between Danish Fishermen's Association and DTU Aqua Copenhagen 1st September 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
17. **DG Mare meeting on State of the Stocks Brussels, 8th September 2011**
Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) and Jesper Kobberø (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organizations)

18. **Presentation by DG Mare of CFP reform proposals Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Copenhagen, 8th September 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
19. **AGM of AIPCE and CEP (European Fish Processors Association and European Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish, Bornholm, 9th September 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
20. **Meeting of Community Fisheries Control Agency, Vigo, 28th September 2011**
Reine J Johansson (BSRAC chair)
21. **Natura 2000, Germany Bonn, 15th October 2011**
Peter Breckling (Union of German Cutter Fishery), Piotr Gruszka (Polish Ecological Club), Kim Kær Hansen (Danish Fishermen's Association), Nils Höglund (Coalition Clean Baltic)
22. **DG Environment Expert meeting on Natura 2000, Brussels, 28th October 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
23. **Sustainable futures for Fisheries Areas (Farnet Conference) Brussels, 3rd and 4th November 2011**
Jesper Kobberø (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organizations)
24. **Steering Committee for Priority Area no. 13 of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Copenhagen, 3th - 4th November 2011**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
25. **Seminar on the renewal of the EU fisheries policy: minimised bycatch and a ban on discards, Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences Stockholm, 23rd November 2011**
Ewa Milewska (BSRAC vice chair)
26. **Nordisk Network meeting for Nordic staff employed at international organisations 23rd November Helsinki**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
27. **Reception for 60th birthday reception for Niels Wichmann (managing director Danish Fishermen's Association) Copenhagen, 23rd and 24th November 2011**
Reine Johansson (BSRAC chair) and BSRAC Secretariat
28. **STECF multi-species working group Edinburgh, 28th November – 2nd December 2011**
Gustaf Almqvist (Fisheries Secretariat), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Kim Kær Hansen (Danish Fishermen's Association) and Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)
29. **ICES scoping meeting on multi-species for Baltic Copenhagen 16th December 2011**
Michael Andersen, Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
30. **HELCOM Fisheries/Environment Forum Helsinki, 23rd- 24th January 2012**
Malin Lönnroth (Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations)
31. **MIRAC annual meeting between ICES and the RACs Hague, 23rd-24th January 2012**
Michael Andersen, (Demersal WG chair), Jesper Kobberø (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organizations) and Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
32. **Baltfish Helsinki, 25th January 2012**
Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
33. **ComFish project kick-off meeting, Munich 8th and 9th February 2012**
Alex Olsen (Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish)

34. **Meeting between the RACs and DG Mare Brussels, 21st February 2012**
Reine Johansson, (BSRAC chair) Niki Sporrang (Fisheries Secretariat), Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
35. **European Fisheries Control Agency Advisory Board meeting Brussels 21st February 2012**
Reine Johansson, Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
36. **ICES WKMULTBALT workshop on multi-species management Copenhagen 6th-8th March 2012**
Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Martin Ogonowski (Fisheries Secretariat), Sally Clink (BSRAC Secretariat)
37. **European Fisheries Control Agency Seminar on the five year evaluation of the EFCA Vigo, 14th March 2012**
Reine Johansson (BSRAC chair)
38. **European Fisheries Control Agency Administrative Board meeting Vigo, 15th March 2012**
Reine Johansson (BSRAC chair and representing all the RACs).

What came out of the BSRAC this year: the recommendations and letters written

- Letter to member states on selectivity
- Letter to DG Mare on trade measures consultation
- Reply from the BSRAC to WWF's Baltic Consensus Survey
- Letter and reply to the Commission consultation on maritime spatial planning
- BS RAC Recommendations for the fishery in 2012
- Letter to DG Mare on effort management in the TAC/Quota proposal
- BSRAC letter to DG MARE on unreported or misreported catches in the Salmon fishery in the Baltic
- BSRAC opinion on long-term management of salmon stocks
- Letter from the BSRAC inviting to a high level meeting to discuss regionalisation in the Baltic area

Membership

Membership has remained the same during the year with 38 members.

Overview of members of the BS RAC 2011 – 2012

Fisheries Sector

European Transport Workers' Federation

Karsten Kristensen, karsten.kristensen@3f.dk

The Fishermen's Association of Bornholm and Christiansø

Thomas Thomsen, thomas.bch@mail.dk

Danish Fishermen's Association

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Danish Fishermen's Producers' Organisation

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Roar Schou, European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions, left the organisation during the year. At the time of writing this report we're waiting to hear who will replace him.

CORE STAFF AT BSRAC

Reine J. Johansson, chair of the ExCom

Steve Karnicki honorary chair of the General Assembly

Ewa Milewska BSRAC Vice-chair

Michael Andersen, Demersal WG chair

Gunnar Asplund, Salmon and Sea Trout chair

Mart Undrest, Pelagic WG chair

BSRAC Secretariat: Annelise Iversen and Sally Clink

FINAL THANKS

To the member states, member organisations and institutes for help in providing meeting rooms this year.

Thanks to Carl O'Brien from ICES and ACOM vice-chair, who attended at the joint working group in June 2010.

Thanks to the experts and guest speakers who attended the BSRAC meetings and workshops