

## **Ninth Annual Report of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council May 2015**

### **Introduction**

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) has been in operation since 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006, after a decision by the EU to create the Regional Advisory Councils in the fisheries sector (Council Decision 2004/585/EC). The 2014 reform of the Common Fisheries Policy confirmed the continuation of the Advisory Councils and that more would be created (thereby dispensing with the heading regional, but maintaining the focus on advisory). In its work programme for 2014 – 2015, the Baltic Sea Advisory Council expressed the fact that it looked forward to playing a more prominent role and to finding its way and establishing practices in the new form of regionalised management according to Article 18 of the new Basic Regulation: Regional cooperation on conservation measures.

The new Basic Regulation (1380/2013)<sup>1</sup> defines three tasks of the Advisory Councils:

- To submit recommendations and suggestions on matters relating to the management of fisheries and the socio- economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and aquaculture to the Commission and to the Member State concerned, and, in particular, recommendations on how to simplify rules on fisheries management;
- To inform the Commission and Member States of problems relating to the management and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and, where appropriate, of aquaculture in their geographical area or field of competence and propose solutions to overcome those problems;
- To contribute, in close cooperation with scientists, to the collection, supply and analysis of data necessary

At the same time, the Basic Regulation makes clear that Advisory Councils must be consulted by the Commission and member states and their advice must be taken into account.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bsac.dk/archive/Dokumenter/Documents%20Section/Council%20Documents/1180\\_2013\\_191113.pdf](http://www.bsac.dk/archive/Dokumenter/Documents%20Section/Council%20Documents/1180_2013_191113.pdf)

The members of the BSAC comprise representatives from the fishing sector and other interest groups affected by the Common Fisheries Policy. Representatives of the BSAC include fisheries associations, producer organisations, processors, market organisations, trade union, environmental NGOs, consumers and recreational and sports fishermen.<sup>2</sup>

The structure of the BSAC has not changed since it started. It has a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and 3 Working Groups (for demersal fisheries, pelagic fisheries, and salmon and sea trout). The demersal and pelagic working groups have joint working groups since 2010, because they share issues of common interest, whereas the salmon and sea trout working group has been inactive since 2012.

This annual report recounts the activities of the BSAC's ninth year from 16th March 2014-15th March 2015.

### **Main results achieved by the BSAC during the year 2014– 2015**

The BSAC work programme for 2014-2015 stated that the main focus of the year's work was increased activity for the implementation of a landing obligation and the introduction of a multi-annual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks, taking into account ecosystem interactions. Underlying all the work has been the anticipation by the BSAC to establish practices in the new regionalised management according to Article 18 of the new Basic Regulation: Regional cooperation on conservation measures. In practice this has meant work carried out not only within the BSAC meetings, but also to an increasing extent together with the BALTFISH Member States and the Commission, as well as the European Fisheries Control Agency. At the same time cooperation with ICES has been an important part of the BSAC work during 2014 – 2015, in particular in connection with data collection and analysis in order to improve the basis for the assessment of the Baltic cod stocks.

### **The implementation of a landing obligation – regionalisation in practice**

As the year started on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the decision on implementing a landing obligation for most stocks in the Baltic had been taken and the start date for implementation - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 - was known. However, the exact details and modalities had not been drawn up and the BSAC entered into discussions internally as well as with Baltic Sea member states, DG Mare and the European Fisheries Control Agency so as to have as much influence as possible on developments. The development of regionalisation with the revised Common Fisheries Policy has meant that Member States have been given the responsibility for drawing up a plan for a landing obligation. At the same time, the BSAC has to be consulted. It has taken part in all the BALTFISH forum meetings held during the BSAC year. Its request to be included in the BALTFISH High Level Group has not been successful, but according to the wording of the MoU on Baltfish stakeholders can address

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<sup>2</sup> The members of the BSAC can be seen on the website:  
<http://www.bsac.dk/ooizzCMS/DA/bsracmembers/generalassembly>

positions and proposals to the BALTFISH Presidency. It did this in September 2014 by calling for an emergency meeting to elaborate further the practical details of a landing obligation. It was a meeting well-attended by member states, Commission, EFCA and stakeholders. In February 2015 the BSAC sent a letter to the BALTFISH Presidency to call for a follow up meeting in the spring 2015 to follow up on implementation of the landing obligation and to ensure a level playing field. A reply to this letter is pending.

### **The introduction of a multi-annual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks – an opening to the European Parliament’s Fisheries Committee**

The long-awaited Commission proposal for a multi-annual plan for the Baltic was published in October 2014. The Polish MEP Jaroslaw Walesa, rapporteur for the dossier in the Fisheries Committee, invited input from the BSAC. This provided a good opportunity to follow up on this invitation by planning a working group meeting in Brussels, close to the MEPs, so as to have an exchange of views. After the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the BSAC has sent its opinion on the proposal to the Parliament, BALTFISH Member States and DG Mare and awaits further developments as the proposal is dealt with by the Fisheries Committee.

### **The scientific advice – a difficult year for the Baltic cod stocks**

Every year, the BSAC deals with the scientific advice from ICES for the Baltic stocks. During the year 2014 -2015 the challenge has been significant for the BSAC members to discuss and reach agreement on the advice for cod - both eastern and western Baltic – in particular as concerns the basis for the assessment. At its working group meeting in June 2014 several members questioned the basis for the advice and after some difficult discussions - both in the working group and the Executive Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the BSAC sent a letter to ICES questioning the rationale of the advice for cod. There have been two meetings organised by ICES to look into the advice and background for cod: a workshop in Gdynia in October 2014 and a benchmark meeting in Rostock in March 2015. BSAC members have participated in these meetings and engaged actively in this process. Whilst the assessment has not been fully accepted by all members, there has been the opportunity for dialogue.

### **Health and safety in the fisheries sector**

The flagship project under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) PA Safe "To lay the groundwork for developing a plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries", was also concluded under the current year and a final meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

### **The meetings held by the BSAC**

The BSAC has held a total of nine own meetings: one General Assembly, four Executive Committee meetings and four joint pelagic and demersal working groups. The horizontal nature of the issues that have been dealt with: landing obligation, technical measures and selectivity and multi-species management has made the joint working groups not only possible, but also necessary.

## **The meetings held by the BSAC 2014 -2015:**

### **Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, Copenhagen, 31<sup>st</sup> March -1<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

This two day meeting had an ambitious agenda. It began with technical discussions on the impending landing obligation with a view to drafting practical proposals from the BSAC to a forthcoming BALTFISH meeting, which the BSAC was to take part in 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The Baltic Fishermen's Association had prepared a paper which contained elements of a discard plan and which was useful as a basis for discussions at the meeting. The need for flexibility in the Baltic fisheries was a key topic for the exchange of views: year to year flexibility in using the quotas, species to species flexibility and flexibility with respect to the amount of cod allowed in small meshed fisheries. Selectivity and the minimum conservation reference size for cod also occupied the working group members, as did control issues such as logbook reporting tolerance and the punishment/points system which should apply under a landing obligation. The Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency gave a presentation of views on the implementation of the landing obligation in the Baltic. Of concern to the Agency was to ensure compliance with recording what could no longer be discarded, to help Member States in the practical control and monitoring tools for the enforcement of the landing obligation and to develop helpful control guidelines to support the control of the landing obligation. The working group also went through a draft text containing comments to the Commission's draft Omnibus Regulation which was a draft regulation to reconcile the need to make necessary amendments to current legislation which will be in contradiction with the coming landing obligation. The working group also took note of the need for the BSAC to prepare a response to the Commission's Consultation on Technical Measures with the long term aim of revising current aged technical measures applied in the Baltic and in need of revision, in particular against the background of a revised CFP and a coming landing obligation.

### **Executive Committee, Gdynia, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

The Director of the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Tomasz Linkowski provided words of welcome. In his intervention he focused his remarks on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the process in Poland of designating Marine Protected Areas under the Natura 2000 network. He was of the opinion that the BSAC, with its membership compromised of fisheries and environmental interests, could provide well balanced advice.

The Annual report and accounts for 2013-2014 were approved by the Executive Committee for adoption by the General Assembly, as were the work programme and draft estimated budget for 2014-2015. The meeting discussed and took note of the work needed for the transition from BSRAC to BSAC, including a discussion of the statutes, whereby agreement was reached on making only the essential text amendments. The vice-chair Ewa Milewska (WW Poland) was re-elected for a further three years. A decision on the application for BSAC membership by OCEANA was referred to the General Assembly. There was a report

from the recently held working group which had dealt with the landing obligation, omnibus proposal and technical measures. Rory Crawford from Birdlife International informed about a project being carried out in collaboration with the fishing industry in Lithuania on bird bycatch and the development of mitigation fishing methods.

### **General Assembly, Gdynia, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

On opening the meeting, Steve Karnicki, the Honorary Chair of the General Assembly highlighted the challenges facing the BSAC: the multi-annual multi-species management plan and the landing obligation. He also referred to regionalisation and the fact that the BSAC had applied to be in the High Level Group of BALTFISH. In his report for the year, Reine J. Johansson, chair of the Executive Committee, highlighted the adoption of the reformed CFP, he referred to BALTFISH and regionalisation and he spoke about the landing obligation. The General Assembly also took note of reports of work done by the Joint Working Group during the previous year.

The General Assembly approved the annual report and accounts for 2013-2014 as well as the work programme and draft estimated budget for 2014-2015. It confirmed the re-election of Ewa Milewska as vice-chair for a further three years. The General Assembly endorsed the new name and logo and approved the appointment of a certified auditor to audit the annual accounts of the BSAC. It also agreed on the proposals from the Executive Committee to amend the statutes.

With respect to the application by Baltic 2020 for a seat on the ExCom, there were no objections from General Assembly members. The General Assembly decided to consult member states one more time about the application by OCEANA for membership of the BSAC. The Secretariat provided an update on the membership of the BSAC.

### **Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, Copenhagen, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

At this regular annual meeting of the Working Group to deal with the advice from ICES of the Baltic stocks, released on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014, John Simmonds, ICES ACOM vice chair presented the scientific advice for the Baltic stocks and working group members had the opportunity to ask questions and provided comments. A Commission representative gave a brief indication of the contents of the anticipated Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2015, which at the time of the meeting was not available, but he was able to give some indications of the policy lines that the Commission would follow when drawing up its proposal for TACs and quotas for the Baltic stocks. The working group members discussed the ICES advice on the Baltic stocks and formulated positions with respect to the different stocks. It took note that the working group chair would produce a draft set of recommendations which was to be presented to the forthcoming Executive Committee meeting. Given the specific concerns expressed by the working group members about the assessment for cod, it was agreed to write to ICES to question the rationale behind the advice, both for the western and the eastern stocks. Finally, the working group had a discussion on the formulation of an answer to the letter from DG Mare's Director Carla Montesi about a draft outline of a possible Commission proposal for a Regulation on a

multiannual plan for fisheries in the Baltic Sea. It was agreed that the working group chair would draft a response for the forthcoming Executive Committee to consider and adopt.

#### **Executive Committee Copenhagen 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The Executive Committee took note of the update on expenditure by the Secretariat. It noted the presentation of the final report from the flagship project on reducing the number of accidents; no decisions were taken on further actions. It also took note of a report from the chairman on the planning of a conference to focus on the environmental status of the Baltic. The Executive Committee discussed, amended and adopted a letter to ICES questioning the basis for the advice for cod. After discussion (including on the working procedures within the BSAC) and some further elaboration, it also adopted a draft response from the BSAC concerning multi-annual plans. It also adopted the BSAC draft advice on the management of the fisheries in the Baltic in 2015. OCEANA was welcomed to the General Assembly after the concluded procedure of consulting Member States a second time. Information points were provided by the Secretariat concerning 1) cormorants, 2) projects under HORIZON 2020 concerning discards and 3) a forthcoming international maritime conference in Szczecin, Poland.

#### **Executive Committee Copenhagen 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The secretariat gave an update on expenditure and informed of the preparation for the new BSAC year 2015-2016. The chair updated the meeting on the aim to hold a conference on the environmental influences on the Baltic Sea and for which he was seeking sponsorship. He presented a draft MoU between the ACs and Member States which had been prepared by another Advisory Council and which the Executive Committee took note of, but did not pursue. The Commission's delegated regulation on the functioning of the ACs was presented to the Executive Committee and taken note of. The Executive Committee had a discussion of the outcome of the October Council decisions on the Baltic fishery for 2015. There were differing views on the outcome and what the impact of the forthcoming TACs in 2015 will have on the fishery, in particular in connection with the landing obligation. There was a discussion amongst the members about the requests made by the BSAC to ICES and possible further work to develop a proposal of what to ask ICES to provide advice on. The Demersal working group chair presented the Commission's recently published proposal for a multi-annual plan for the Baltic and informed that it would be dealt with at a subsequent working group. The executive committee could not reach agreement reached on a draft text containing a view on the Commission's proposal for a regulation laying down a prohibition on driftnet fisheries, so this was abandoned. An application by OCEANA for membership of the Executive Committee was reverted to the next General Assembly meeting in May 2015 (when there would be elections for the next three year period). The Executive Committee took note of reports from various meetings that had taken place and attended by BSAC members. Pascal Savouret Executive Director of the EFCA gave a presentation of the implementation of the landing obligation in the Baltic and the status with respect to work being carried out by the Agency in its Joint Deployment Programmes. Piotr Predki of WWF Poland gave information on the development of a project to deal with

marine litter in the Baltic (MARELITT). Robert Aps, as representative from the GAP2 project to strengthen and develop science-stakeholder cooperation, gave a presentation on planning for fisheries to planning with fisheries: on the nature of science and research and learning. Line Kyhn, representative from the SAMBAH project, gave a presentation of the initial results on the abundance and distribution of porpoises in the Baltic Sea, the final results of which would be announced later in the year.

### **Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The BSAC working group held three successive meetings to deal with the Commission's proposal for a multiannual plan for cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic. The meetings were held in the Danish Permanent Representation to the EU and the European Parliament. There were exchanges of view amongst BSAC members, with representatives from Member States and the European Parliament Fisheries Committee and with other stakeholders. After the meeting, the WG chair drafted a response for further discussion and development at the forthcoming Executive Committee meeting.

### **Executive Committee Copenhagen, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The Secretariat gave an update on expenditure and presented a draft budget and work programme for the year 2015 -2016 and which were approved. The Executive Committee chair informed of the status with respect to planning a conference to deal with the environment of the Baltic Sea: he was still awaiting from the Swedish administration news on potential funding. There was a brief discussion on membership of the Executive Committee and the vacant two seats amongst the other interest groups and note taken that this would be dealt with up at the next General Assembly meeting in May 2015. The status of the newly implemented landing obligation in the Baltic was discussed and fisheries representatives gave up to date information on its application since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. An attempt was made by the Demersal working group chair for the Executive Committee to adopt the draft response to the Commission's multi-annual proposal, a text which had been drawn up after the recently held Joint working group on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, but without success. It was agreed by the Executive Committee to continue work on this and to finalise and adopt in a written procedure. The Executive Committee dealt with the Commission's paper concerning the development of a new technical measures framework and an Executive Committee member was invited to present his initial views on the paper concerning catch metrics and selectivity profiles. It was agreed by the Executive Committee that this should be dealt with by a dedicated working group and the deadline for sending input to the Commission was extended. Marie Storr-Paulsen, Clara Ulrich and Stefan Spahn, fisheries scientists and researchers from the Danish Institute DTU Aqua were invited to give information on 1) the status of eastern Baltic cod (in advance of the forthcoming cod benchmark meeting planned for 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2015), 2) the discard projects MINIDISC and Discardless and 3) INSPIRE: the spatial ecology of herring, sprat, cod and flounder. Finally, Jørgen Møller Christiansen from the Danish Center for Maritime Health and Society, University of Southern Denmark gave a presentation of a recently completed study into the health and well-being of fishermen in Denmark. The new General Assembly member the Environmental Defence Fund was invited to give information on its organisation.

### **Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, Copenhagen, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The working group had a discussion of the Commission's paper [Development of a new technical measures framework] with a view to reaching common ground and producing a new set of rules on technical measures. Discussions were aided by a contribution from one Executive Committee member who went into more detail on catch metrics and selectivity profiles. In their discussions, members were in agreement on the need for increased flexibility for fishermen, whilst at the same time ensuring accountability for what they catch. They found the ideas of catch metrics and selectivity profiles interesting, but questioned their relevance to the Baltic fisheries. Some members did not want to see the current technical measures replaced by new ones. The working group did not reach final agreement on the exact details and application in the Baltic. The working group also began to go through proposed changes and amendments to the current Baltic regulation on technical measures, but did not complete this. A report was produced from the meeting. By the end of the current year, the BSAC had not finalised a response to the Commission's paper.

### **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Priority Area on Maritime Safety and Security "PA Safe" Flagship Project to lay the groundwork for developing a plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries**

The final meeting of this project, which was coordinated by the BSAC Secretariat and carried out with support and expertise from the Swedish Fishermen's Federation, the Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Services, the Danish Maritime Authority and the Swedish Institute, took place on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014. It presented the results of the project and confirmed the importance of maintaining focus on the health and safety of fishermen. Key findings and ideas were summarised by the meeting and formulated as recommendations for further work. The conclusion was that this had been a well-run project which reinforced the ability and strength of the BSAC to deal with issues that go beyond fisheries management.

### **External meetings where BSAC members took part and represented the BSAC:**

The external meetings highlight in particular that there are some fixed points of the horizon and key points on the Baltic fisheries meeting and work agenda: meetings with the DG Mare, the European Fisheries Control Agency, ICES, BALTFISH, HELCOM, as well as where relevant, projects involving or including members of the BSAC. The BSAC has made careful use of its resources to ensure participation at the essential meetings.

### **Inter-AC meeting (ACs meet DG Mare) Brussels 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Reine J. Johansson, Ewa Milewska, Sally Clink

**BALTFISH Forum meeting Riga, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014: Baltic Sea discard plan, fisheries management in Natura 2000 areas, multi-annual management plans**

Reine J. Johansson, Michael Andersen, Mart Undrest, Ewa Milewska, Sally Clink

**The Fisheries Secretariat held its ten year anniversary Stockholm, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Reine J Johansson, BSAC chair was invited

**General Assembly Danish Fishermen's Federation Middelfart, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Henrik Loveby represented the BSAC

**MareFrame (project on Ecosystem based fisheries management) Baltic Sea case study Workshop Gothenburg, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Reine J Johansson, Michael Andersen

**INVOLVED (part of the HORIZON 2020 discards project application process), Ijmuiden, 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Sally Clink (27<sup>th</sup> May only)

**GAP2 (project strengthening science stakeholder cooperation) Annual meeting Rome, 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Reine J Johansson

**COFASP (project on Cooperation in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing) foresight final workshop part 3 Rome, 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Sally Clink

**MYFISH/SOCIOEC (projects on Maximum sustainable yield in fisheries) Copenhagen, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Reine J. Johansson, Pehr Eriksson, Alex Olsen, Peter Breckling, Akvilé Kungiené, Mart Undrest, Mogens Schou, Niki Sporrang, Sally Clink

**EU-Russia Joint Committee St Petersburg, 30<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

Mart Undrest

**Global Ocean Commission Brussels 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

(presentation of their report containing practical proposals for restoring ocean health)

Reine J. Johansson

**Meeting with Ilona Jepsena DG Mare, Head of Unit, Fisheries conservation and control Baltic and North Sea 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Reine J. Johansson

**WWF Baltic Sea Festival, Our Seas Our future, Stockholm, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Sally Clink

**Invasive Goby Seminar Copenhagen, DTU Aqua 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Piotr Gruszka, Sally Clink

**BALTFISH Forum meeting Vilnius, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (Proposal for TACs and quotas 2015, Information on multi-species long term management plan for Baltic, landing obligation, technical measures)**

Reine J. Johansson, Michael Andersen, Sally Clink

**INSPIRE (project INtegrating SPAtial pRocesses into Ecosystem models for sustainable utilization of fish resources) La Coruña, 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Pehr Eriksson

**EFCA Advisory Board Meeting Vigo, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Reine J. Johansson

**Commission meeting on the State of the Stocks Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Michael Andersen, Ewa Milewska

**ICES Cod workshop Gdynia, 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

Henrik Loveby, Michael Andersen, Piotr Gruszka, Olle Schuschel, Ewa Milewska, Kim Kær Hansen, Staffan Larsson,

**HELCOM Fisheries Environment meeting Helsinki 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

Vesa Karttunen

**Inter-AC meeting (ACs meet DG Mare) Brussels 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Reine J. Johansson, Sally Clink

**MARELITT project (marine litter) Warsaw, 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Kenneth Rasmussen, Sally Clink

**BALTFISH Forum meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Reine J. Johansson, Michael Andersen, Ewa Milewska, Peter Breckling, Krzysztof Stanuch, Nils Höglund, Gustaf Almqvist, Staffan Larsson, Sally clink

**MIACO (ICES meets the Advisory Councils) Copenhagen 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Michael Andersen, Mogens Schou

**ADGHERMA: ICES Working Group on herring and mackerel Copenhagen, 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Reine J. Johansson

**BALTFISH Forum Vilnius, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (multi-annual plan for the Baltic)**

Reine J. Johansson, Michael Andersen,

**EFCA Advisory Board Meeting Brussels, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Reine J Johansson

**GAP 2 Final project Symposium Barcelona, 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Reine J. Johansson

**ICES cod benchmark Rostock 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Reine J. Johansson, Michael Andersen, Staffan Larsson, Edward Stern

**Membership**

Membership lists (General Assembly and Executive Committee) are available on the BSAC website and can also be obtained from the BSAC Secretariat.

**Departures**

Two core and seasoned members of the BSAC Executive Committee - Henrik Loveby (President Swedish Fishermen's Federation) and Niki Sporrong (Director Fisheries Secretariat) said goodbye to the BSAC. Tore Johnsson replaced Henrik Loveby. Wendy Broadgate replaced Niki Sporrong.

Another departure from the Fisheries Secretariat was Gustaf Almqvist, replaced by Edward Stern

Ireneusz (Irek) Wójcik was nominated representative to the Executive Committee from the Association of Fishermen's of Sea- PO (replacing Piotr Nowakowski).

Jacob Hagberg left Baltic Sea 2020 and was replaced by Mogens Schou. Baltic Sea 2020 became a member of the Executive Committee.

From the German Angling Association Stefan Spahn replaced Peter Mohnert.

At the end of the year ASECO (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organizations announced its departure from the BSAC), but was replaced by the Danish organisation Active Consumers, represented by Klaus Melvin Jensen and Kenneth Rasmussen.

### **Applications**

OCEANA came into the BSAC during the year into the General Assembly.

The Environmental Defense Fund joined late in the year and will be included as General Assembly member in the new year 2015 -2016

### **Keeping the BSAC members informed**

With bi-monthly newsletters sent to members, there has been a total of 21 of them during the year.