

Tenth Annual Report of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council April 2016

Introduction

This annual report recounts the activities of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council's (BSAC) tenth year from 16th March 2015-15th March 2016.

Representatives of the BSAC include fisheries associations, producer organisations, processors, market organisations, trade unions, environmental NGOs, consumers and recreational and sports fishermen.¹

The structure of the BSAC has not changed since it started in 2016. 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 been holding 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.

Main results achieved by the BSAC during the year 2015 – 2016

The BSAC work programme for 2015-2016 stated that the main focus of the year's work was increased activity for the implementation of a landing obligation, the introduction of a multi-annual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks, taking into account ecosystem interactions, as well contribution to the revision of the technical measures in the Baltic Sea. The BSAC has continued its efforts to play a more prominent role within the Common Fisheries Policy. It has also continued to work on establishing practices in the new regionalised management of the fisheries according to Article 18 of the Basic Regulation: Regional cooperation on conservation measures. The BSAC focused on these issues within its planned meetings and working groups, as well as by maintaining close co-operation with relevant organisations, institutions and fora (EU Commission, European Parliament's Fisheries Committee, BALTFISH, ICES, the European Fisheries Control Agency, the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the national scientific institutes).

Implementation of the landing obligation in the Baltic

The implementation of the landing obligation, which began on 1st January 2015 in the Baltic, has remained the key issue for the BSAC.

In response to the Commission's request addressed to the BSAC to submit information on the implementation of the Landing Obligation and in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the CFP, the BSAC members provided information during the Joint Working Group on 26th-27th January 2016, as well as after the meeting.

¹ The lists members of the BSAC are on the website: <http://www.bsac.dk>

It provided a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of experience gathered across the Baltic. This information was sent to the European Commission on 1st February 2016.

Selectivity in the demersal fishery and discards

Selectivity in the cod fishery has remained one of the key issues for the BSAC. This has been of particular importance and relevance due to the introduction of the landing obligation. At every opportunity, BSAC representatives have pointed out that the rules under the existing technical measures regulation for the Baltic do not reflect the new reality under the landing obligation and have called for greater freedom for the fishermen in developing and adapting gears to make the cod fishery more selective. The BSAC continued to seek close cooperation with science in collaborative projects on the minimisation of discards and on technical improvements to selectivity.

Innovative solutions with regard to selectivity were presented at different meetings of the BSAC.

Introduction of a multi-annual multi-species management of the Baltic fish stocks, taking into account ecosystem interactions

Already in October 2014 the Commission put forward its proposal for a multi-annual management plan for cod, herring and sprat. The BSAC has already made an active contribution in its own meetings and BSAC members participated at all the scientific meetings of ICES and with DG Mare and the European Parliament to discuss the terms of reference and to define the scope of a multi-species multi-annual plan. The BSAC has expressed frustration at the deadlock between the Council and Parliament over the contents and wording of the multiannual plan. It has encouraged all involved to reach agreement.

The Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group decided that a focus group should be established to formulate the BSAC recommendations on technical measures which should be part of the multiannual plan for the Baltic. The ExCom decided that the BSAC should take a proactive approach with regard to environmental topics. A possible work plan/list of environmental topics such as fisheries measures in Natura 2000 and the MSFD, and which could be discussed in the framework of the BSAC, is to be prepared and dealt with in the coming year.

Contribution to the revision of the technical measures in the Baltic Sea

In line with the new Basic Regulation 1380/2013 and the provisions for the development of multi-annual management plans, there is a need to revise the existing regulations on technical measures. The BSAC has continued to deal with this during its Work Programme 2015-2016 in the framework of the Joint Working Group meetings.

Salmon management plan

During the work programme year the Commission's proposal for a Baltic salmon management plan, which was presented in 2011 (COM (2011) 470), has not been dealt with by the Commission and the EU Parliament. The BSAC is ready to get involved in this in the future.

Conference: the environmental situation in the Baltic and its impact on fisheries

The BSAC sent a letter to the Swedish administration with a new application for financial support to arrange a conference on the environment. It will be reconsidered after the adoption of the budget. The BSAC Chair proposed to convene a meeting of a working group on planning and developing the conference once/if the funding is secured. No further progress was made on funding during the year.

Data Collection Framework Regulation

The Commission has not put forward a proposal for a revised regulation. The BSAC is positive about being consulted and looks forward to the opportunity to provide input in the future.

The meetings held by the BSAC 2015 -2016:

The BSAC has held a total of seven own meetings: one General Assembly, three Executive Committee meetings and three joint Pelagic and Demersal Working Group meetings. The horizontal nature of the issues that have been dealt with: implementation of the landing obligation, technical measures and selectivity has made the joint working groups not only possible, but also necessary.

Executive Committee, Helsinki, 7th May 2015

The Annual Report and accounts for 2014-2015 were approved by the Executive Committee for adoption by the General Assembly, as were the work programme and draft estimated budget for 2015-2016. The meeting also deal with elections of ExCom members for the period 2015 -2018 and with the nominations of ExCom chair and Honorary chair.

General Assembly, Helsinki, 7th May 2015

In his opening statement, Steve Karnicki, BSAC honorary chair, said that the purpose of the meeting was to have a confessional on the year that had gone and to plan for the year ahead. He referred to the good news of the recent inflow of water from the North Sea. He mentioned that the bureaucracy in Brussels meant that the present state of decision taking is very slow. This had made the start of the year with the landing obligation very difficult for the fishermen. He was glad that the BSAC ExCom had been able to take a balanced position on this. He hoped that under regionalisation there would be strengthened cooperation with BALTFISH.

In his annual report, the BSAC ExCom Chair highlighted the state of expectation that the BSAC was in this time last year with respect to CFP reform, the landing obligation and the negotiations on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. He underlined the importance of regionalisation and the close cooperation with BALTFISH.

The General Assembly adopted the annual report and final accounts for 2014-2015, as well as the work programme and draft estimated budget for 2015-2016.

The Swedish Fishermen's Federation nominated Reine J. Johansson as BSAC ExCom chair and this was seconded by the representative from Coalition Clean Baltic who supported this on condition that the Ex Com chair supported all the interests of the BSAC.

It was also seconded by the representative from the Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation. The nomination was approved by applause/acclamation.

The representative from the Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation nominated Steve Karnicki as Honorary chair. This was seconded by the representative from Coalition Clean Baltic. The nomination was confirmed by was by applause/acclamation.

Dr. Michael Naumann, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Warnemünde, presented information on the recent inflow from November/December 2014. His power point slides showed clearly the effects that this has had, for example in terms of inflow and outflow. The large volume of water from the major Baltic inflow will most probably turn the entire Baltic deep water from anoxic to oxic, with widespread consequences for the ecosystem.

On dealing with the election of members to the Executive Committee, the honorary chair started by referring to an application that he had received from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). He commented that this application set a precedent because it had not been made within the specified deadlines and he did not consider their application eligible. The General Assembly took a vote and the majority supported the application by the Environmental Defense Fund.

With respect to the rotation of the two fisheries organisations from Lithuania in the ExCom, the General Assembly took a vote and the majority of members voted in favour of the rotation, thus giving the Confederation of Fishermen and Fish Processors of West Lithuania the three year membership of the Ex Com.

In concluding on the estimated expenditure for 2015-2016, the BSAC chair highlighted the word flexibility. He agreed with the Ex Com that the Secretariat would write to the Commission and seek flexibility on use of the budget item Interpretation. The BSAC would then have to wait until 2016-2017 in order to plan for any increase in contributions.

The Ex Com adopted by consensus the renewal of the two chairman (Michael Andersen and Mart Undrest) of the Demersal and Pelagic Working Group.

The ExCom took note of the appointment of Ewa Milewska as rapporteur-information assistant.

The ExCom adopted by consensus the nomination of the new vice chair, Piotr Predki (WWF Poland).

Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, Copenhagen, 10th-11th June 2015

This was the regular annual meeting of the Working Group to deal with the advice from ICES of the Baltic stocks, released on 31st May 2015.

John Simmonds, ICES ACOM vice chair presented the scientific advice for the Baltic stocks (cod, flatfish, pelagic, salmon + trout), demonstrated with a power point presentation. Working group members had the opportunity to ask questions and provided comments.

John Simmonds also gave a power point presentation to explain the fundamentals of MSY and the answers that ICES gave to the questions asked about ranges for Fmsy.

A Commission representative gave a brief indication of the contents of the anticipated Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2016. He referred to the positive trends from 2006 to 2014 and the increase in number of stocks at MSY. He informed that the Baltic is probably the best managed and the situation is quite good and shows considerable and marked progress with stocks fished at MSY.

The working group members discussed the ICES advice on the Baltic stocks and formulated positions with respect to the different stocks. The working group chair was asked to produce a draft set of recommendations which was to be presented to the forthcoming Executive Committee meeting.

Executive Committee Copenhagen 2nd July 2015

The Executive Committee took note of the update on expenditure by the Secretariat.

The Secretary informed the participants that following a proposal put forward by a representative of the other interest groups, she had asked the Commission to grant the BSAC flexibility on use of the budget for interpretation. The Secretary of the BSAC informed the participants that in September the BSAC will move to a smaller office located at the same address.

The Secretary informed that on 6th June 2015 the BSAC formally received an application for membership from a Polish small scale fisheries organization, Darłowska Group of Fish Manufacturers and Shipowners fishing boats (Darłowska grupa producentów i armatorów łódzi rybackich Sp. Z.O.O).

In the light of a deadlock on the Trilogue negotiations on the multi-annual plan for the Baltic the ExCom supported that the Chair, vice-chair and Working Group chairs meet the EP Rapporteur Jarosław Wałęsa to express serious concern about the lack of agreement on the plan. [A meeting took place in Brussels on 13th July 2015]

Michael Andersen, Demersal WG chair presented the draft set of recommendations produced on the basis of the discussions at the Joint WG on 10th-11th June 2015 and reflecting the views of the majority of BSAC members. He also referred to the recommendations sent by a minority group from the BSAC. ExCom members took note that the text of the BSAC recommendations on the 2016 TACs would be finalised by written procedure.

Libby Woodhatch (Seafish), presented the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS), which was developed by Seafish to improve operational standards in the UK fishing sector.

Piotr Predki WWF presented the outcome of the ghost fishing project carried out in 2011-2013. He referred to the Marellitt project aimed at minimising the impact of ghost nets on Baltic ecosystem. The ExCom decided that the BSAC will become an associated partner of the Marellit project.

Alyne Delaney, from the Innovative Fisheries Management, Aalborg University, presented a project on integrated governance of Baltic herring and salmon stocks involving stakeholders.

Michael Andersen, the Chair of the Demersal Working Group informed the meeting that the Pelagic AC had approached the BSAC to share concern about how, when and where biomass and fishing mortality reference points, including MSY reference points, are being calculated. A draft letter to ICES was prepared and subsequently sent. The ExCom shared concern about the transparency of the process of setting reference points and decided that a BSAC representative should take part in the next benchmark meeting of ICES.

Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group Warsaw, 31st August 2015

Marcin Ruciński, adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, also representing the BALTFISH presidency, pointed out that the advice of the BSAC on the new technical measures was eagerly awaited.

The Working Group had a thorough discussion and proposed amendments to Regulation 2187/2005 on technical measures in the Baltic. The Working Group noted the need to implement amended technical rules without delay as an interim, short-term solution because the existing rules are in contradiction with the landing obligation. The Working Group discussed sections in the regulation relating to gear specifications, mesh size ranges, target species and required catch percentages for the Baltic cod fisheries.

There was consensus among the participants to remove footnote 2 in Annex II of the aforesaid Regulation, referring to specific gears used in cod fishery (Bacoma and T90). The Working Group then discussed the measures in pelagic fisheries listed in the Table in Annex II. There was consensus among participants to give more flexibility to the fishermen. Despite general agreement among the members of the Working Group to minimize the number of technical rules governing the Baltic fisheries, it was not entirely clear or acceptable as to whether everything could be dispensed with, and in which case, what should be retained of the existing rules. The Working Group Chair presented a summary of the amendments to Regulation 2187/2005 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures in the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound proposed by the Working Group for adoption by the ExCom.

Executive Committee Copenhagen 18th November 2015

The Secretary of the BSAC gave ExCom members an update of expenditure and informed that it was on track. She informed the ExCom that the Commission agreed in principle to change the accounting year to start 1st April and end 31st March in order to facilitate budgetary operations. The BSAC Chair informed the ExCom members that on 6th November 2015 the BSAC sent a letter to the Swedish administration with a new application for financial support to arrange a conference on the environment.

Edward Stern from the Fisheries Secretariat drew attention to the new working procedures discussed in the NSAC to ensure that the NSAC operates a fair and transparent system. The ExCom discussed the working procedures. The BSAC Chair summarised the discussions and indicated that the BSAC should be prepared to constantly improve its working procedures. To this end, a written proposal for the amendments of the working procedures of the BSAC should be prepared.

The ExCom members agreed that environmental issues should be discussed in the BSAC, possibly in the framework of a Focus Group, or undertaken in the framework of the existing Groups.

After some discussion, the ExCom decided to postpone the decision on the election of the new Vice-Chair of the BSAC.

Marcin Ruciński, Counsellor to the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland, acting Chair of BALTFISH presented the outcome of the Fisheries Council held on 22nd and 23rd October 2015 from the point of view of the BALTFISH Presidency. The Member States had decided to create a BALTFISH Technical Working Group to examine all available and relevant information to improve the management regime for Baltic cod stocks and to examine the spatial and temporal occurrence of cod in the Central and Western Baltic. Some ExCom members expressed deep concern regarding the decision taken by the ministers on the prolonged closed fishing period for cod in the western Baltic. The ExCom unanimously agreed that the Council of Ministers had adopted a political agreement on spawning closures which lacked scientific basis and the BSAC questioned the impact it will have on the cod stock. The ExCom unanimously agreed to send a letter addressed to the Ministers, the Commission and BALTFISH expressing deep concern with the decision to lengthen the closed fishing period in the western Baltic and urging the Council to reconsider the closures in light of the lack of scientific advice and negative consequences for small-scale fishery.

The ExCom decided that the BSAC should continue the work on amending the technical measures regulation at the meeting of the Joint Working Group, planned for January 2016. The Baltic New Selectivity Group from Sweden presented a new trawl construction which they had developed for use in the cod fishery, and which consisted of multiple selectivity units.

Joint Demersal and Pelagic Working Group, 26th – 27th January 2016

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussions on technical measures. The need to deregulate the fishery and at the same time give greater responsibility to fishermen was underlined. The Working Group Chair concluded the discussion on the introduction of a maximum mesh size in pelagic fishery by stating that the only way forward with this issue was to request scientific advice from ICES. With regard to technical measures for the cod fishery, the Working Group Chair recalled the Working Group proposal to use the BSAC website as a platform to present new solutions and best practices aimed at improving selectivity, available from the experiences gained by fishermen.

Staffan Larsson, the Swedish Cod Fishermen's Producer Organisation, presented the work on improving selectivity in the cod trawls conducted in Sweden. The trials proved that wider codends and looser meshes are better. He underlined that the development of selective gears is a continuous process that should be based on regional co-operation and should take into account that "one size does not fill all".

In summing up the discussion on technical measures, the Working Group Chair pointed to two outstanding issues relating to the Regulation 2187/2005. The first was the abolishment of mesh sizes for the pelagic fishery by merging the columns in the table in Annex II. This was decided by the meeting of the Joint Working Group in August 2015. The other issue concerned the deletion of Footnote 2 in Annex II and in consequence of Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, referring to the specifications of the Bacoma and T90 gears in Annex II of Regulation 2187/2005. The Working Group Chair referred to the fact that Regulation 2187/2005 remains in force until the implementation of the new technical measures under the Multiannual plan for the Baltic. Transitional and immediate short-term amendments to technical regulations are necessary because the existing rules are in contradiction with the landing obligation.

The Working Group Chair would contact the ICES ACOM Chair and ask him to provide the answers formulated by ICES on the removal of minimum and establishing maximum mesh size for the pelagic fishery in 2007.

He also asked the members of the working group to propose issues for the agenda of the Working Group and send them to the Secretariat.

The Working Group decided that a focus group should be established to formulate the BSAC recommendations on technical measures which should be part of the multiannual plan for the Baltic. Nils Höglund, Coalition Clean Baltic, would prepare a work plan for this group and draft a text on the issues for the focus group to discuss.

The Working Group decided that the Chair of the Demersal Working Group should draft a letter asking about practical ways of allowing the use of other gears than the two specified in Annex II as an immediate and interim solution to ensure proper implementation of the landing obligation. After the approval of the ExCom, the letter should be sent to the Commission and BALTFISH.

The ExCom members provided information on the experience so far with the Landing Obligation in the Baltic. This was sent by letter to DG Mare and Baltic member states.

The Working Group Chair reminded the Group on the decision on the extended cod closure in the Baltic SD 24, adopted at the October Fisheries Council meeting. He informed the meeting that a negative reply had been sent to the BSAC from the Commission, informing that the Commission cannot lift this extended closure aimed at protecting the spawning stock. The Working Group decided to continue the discussion on closed areas, with scientific input.

With regard to the suspension of the MSC certification of Swedish, Danish, German, Polish and Latvian eastern Baltic cod fisheries, Anna Dębicka, Project Manager, MSC, Poland, presented the MSC Fisheries standards. She stated that although she understood the concerns raised by the suspension of the MSC certificate, the credibility of MSC requires that its standards are followed precisely. The Working Group Chair expressed the hope that MSC will reconsider its standards and procedures in the future and underlined that certification constitutes an added value for fishermen.

The Working Group decided that the Secretariat should send an invitation to Dr Michael Naumann, from Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Warnemünde to attend the next ExCom meeting and present the information on the most recent inflows of saline water.

The Working Group took note of the Baltic INFLOW meeting, organised by the Polish Institute of Oceanology on 13th April 2016 in Sopot. It was decided that Steve Karnicki will represent the BSAC at the meeting.

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

There are some recurring meetings every year that are required attendance for the BSAC. During 2015-2016 there have been meetings with DG Mare, the European Fisheries Control Agency, ICES, BALTFISH, HELCOM. In addition, there are projects involving or including members of the BSAC: Discardless, MYFISH, INSPIRE and MareFrame are four projects which have held meetings during the year and which have involved BSAC representatives. Then there are conferences, seminars and political meetings which have been of relevance. The BSAC has used its resources carefully and covered the costs to these meetings.

Final meeting of MYFISH project Mallorca 23rd-26th March 2015

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

Meeting with the Fisheries Secretariat Stockholm, 24th March 2015

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair)

Meeting with the Swedish Ministry Enterprise and Innovation of about the BSAC planned and wished for environment conference (and seeking funding from the Swedish government), Stockholm, 25th March 2015

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Nils Höglund (Coalition Clean Baltic)

European Parliament Fisheries Committee Hearing on selectivity, Brussels 13th April 2015

Michael Andersen (BSAC Demersal WG chair)

HELCOM Fisheries Environment meeting, Warsaw 15th -16th April 2015

Michael Andersen (BSAC Demersal WG chair), Ewa Milewska (BSAC vice chair)

BALTFISH EFCA Workshop on the landing obligation, Copenhagen 2nd June 2015

Michael Andersen (BSAC Demersal WG chair), Alex Olsen (AIPCE-CEP), Edward Stern (the Fisheries Secretariat), Mart Undrest (Pelagic WG chair), Sally Clink (Secretariat)

EFCA seminar on the landing obligation, Roskilde 24th June 2015

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Mogens Schou (Baltic 2020) and Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Meeting with MEP arosław Waleśa, rapporteur for the Commission proposal for a multiannual plan for the Baltic, to discuss progress with the negotiations, Brussels 13th July 2015

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Piotr Predki (BSAC vice chair) and Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair)

"Science and economics" Seminar, Brussels 14th July 2015 (aka State of the Stocks)

Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair)

BALTFISH meeting, Warsaw 31st August 2015

Reine Johansson (BSAC chair), Piotr Predki (BSAC vice chair), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Mart Undrest (Pelagic WG chair), Ewa Milewska (Rapporteur), Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat)

Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation and Danish Seafood Association debate meeting with the Minister for Environment and Food, Eva Kjer Hansen, Aalborg 10th September 2015

Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat)

EP Hearing on multi species management plans for fisheries, Brussels 22nd September 2015

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair)

INSPIRE project meeting, Copenhagen 25th September 2015

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

Project meeting on bird bycatch in Poland, Gdynia 29th September 2015

Ewa Milewska (BSAC Secretariat)

Conference on Drivers for Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region, Copenhagen 6th October 2015 (European Commission, in partnership with the Maritime Development Center of Europe, the Danish Maritime Authority and the Baltic Development Forum)

Ewa Milewska, Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat)

ICES/MYFISH symposium, Athens 26th-30th October

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair)

Final conference meeting : "Removal of derelict fishing gear, lost or discarded by Fishermen in the Baltic Sea". Ghost Fishing, Szczecin 12th October 2015

Ewa Milewska (BSAC Secretariat)

HELCOM GEAR Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, Warsaw 29th-30th October 2015

Ewa Milewska (BSAC Secretariat)

HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries, Warsaw 26th-27th November 2015

Ewa Milewska (BSAC Secretariat)

WWF Poland conference on sustainable fisheries, Gdynia 19th November 2015

Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) on behalf of the BSAC and substituting Reine J Johansson and Ewa Milewska (BSAC Secretariat)

Sustainable & Prosperous Region, Safe & Secure Region – views on Polish Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Brussels 3rd December 2015

Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat)

Meeting with Ilona Jepsena DG Mare, Brussels 15th December 2015

Reine J Johansson (BSAC chair)

Meeting with Marcin Rucinski, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Shipping, Warsaw 16th December 2016

Reine J Johansson (BSAC chair)

MIAC-MIACO meetings, Copenhagen 14th-15th January 2016

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Mogens Schou (Baltic 2020), Nils Höglund (Coalition Clean Baltic), Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat) (Apologies from Michael Andersen)

BALTFISH, Gdynia 27th-28th January 2016

Reine Johansson (BSAC chair), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Mart Undrest (Pelagic WG chair), Nils Höglund (Coalition Clean Baltic), Sally Clink and Ewa Milewska (BSAC Secretariat)

Commission conference on economic advice in fisheries management, Malta 4th-5th February 2016

Reine Johansson (BSAC chair)

MareFrame project meeting, Copenhagen 10th February 2016

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) and Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat)

EFCA Advisory Board meeting, Brussels 23rd February 2016

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair)

Commission Seminar on the Landing Obligation, Brussels 24th February 2016

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair)

Inter-AC meeting (Commission meeting with the Advisory Councils), Brussels 24th February 2016

Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair), Edward Stern (the Fisheries Secretariat), Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat)

MYFISH policy information meeting 25th February 2016

Mart Undrest (Pelagic WG chair)

HELCOM Stakeholders meeting 9th March 2016

Sally Clink (BSAC Secretariat substituting Reine J. Johansson (BSAC chair))

Workshop on quota swaps 11th March 2016

Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair), Mogens Schou (Baltic 2020) and Björn Lindblad (Sweden Pelagic Federation PO)

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Membership of the BSAC and representation from the organisations

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

A new member from Poland to the General Assembly: The Darlowska Group of Fish Producers and Shipowners

They joined the BSAC in July 2015, represented by Katarzyna Wysocka.

Changes to the Swedish Fishermen's Federation

In November 2015 we were informed that the Swedish Fishermen's Federation is no longer a federation for fishermen, but became a national organization for cooperation between producer organisations. At that time it was in a transitional phase developing a new modus operandi and with a rotating chairmanship. Staffan Larsson became the contact person from the organization to the General Assembly and representative on the Executive Committee.

The German Cutter-and Coastal-Fishermen's Association

In January 2016 replaced Lothar Fischer retired and was replaced on the Executive Committee by Benjamin Schmöde.

The Environmental Defense Fund

In December 2015 we were informed that ExCom representative Andrea Giesecke had a new job and was unable to take an active part in the BSAC. Erik Lindebo has taken over representation to the BSAC General Assembly and Executive Committee.

Active Consumers

ExCom representation is by Kenneth Rasmussen, replacing Jesper Kobberø.

Coalition Clean Baltic

Mikhail Durkin, Executive Secretary of the CCB, has replaced Gunnar Norén on the General Assembly

The World Wildlife Fund

Matti Ovaska from WWF Finland has replaced Piotr Predki after he left WWF Poland in August 2016.

Piotr Predki was also Vice-chair of the BSAC. Since he departed, his position as vice chair has not yet been filled.

Marine Ingredients

Frank Mink retired at the end of August 2015. Replacing him on the General Assembly is Søren Anker Pedersen.

The Fisheries Secretariat

Wendy Broadgate, Director, left the Fisheries Secretariat in January 2016. Jan Isakson is the new director.

The Denmark Pelagic Producers Organisation: new member to the General Assembly

In February 2016, the DPPO joined the General Assembly of the BSAC, represented by Claus Reedtz Sparrevogn and Esben Sverdrup-Jensen.

The BSAC ended the year 2015-2016 with 41 General Assembly members: 27 from the Fisheries Sector and 14 from the Other Interests Group.

Keeping the BSAC members informed

General Assembly and Executive Committee members have been informed and consulted throughout the year by means of letter and e mail. In addition, newsletters have gone out more or less bi-monthly to General Assembly members. There has been a total of 18 of them during the year. They are subsequently posted on the website.