

**Seventh Annual Report of the
Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council
Adopted at General Assembly 7th May 2013**

Introduction

This is the seventh time that the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (BSRAC) reports on its yearly activities. The BSRAC began its work on 16th March 2006, after a decision by the EU to create the Regional Advisory Councils in the fisheries sector. The main aim of the BSRAC is to prepare and provide advice on the management of Baltic Sea fisheries, so as to contribute to the successful running of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. The BSRAC is a stakeholder body, and its membership is made up of representatives from the fishing sector and other interest groups affected by the Common Fisheries Policy. These include fisheries associations, producer organisations, processors, market organisations, environmental NGOs, consumers, women's networks and recreational and sports fishermen.

The structure of the BSRAC remains unchanged, with a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and 3 Working Groups (for demersal fisheries, pelagic fisheries, and salmon and sea trout).

This annual report covers the period 16th March 2012 -15th March 2013.

All the reports and minutes from all the BSRAC activities, as well as the recommendations and statements made by the BSRAC, can be found on the BSRAC website: www.bsrac.org

The BS RAC work programme for 2012-2013 stated the following priorities:

- **Long-term management**

The BSRAC will continue to focus on the long-term management of stocks.

- **Multi species management plan**

The BSRAC will continue its involvement, awaiting a proposal from DG Mare for a multi-species management plan.

The opportunity for the RAC to develop its work and come with further input has been halted due to stalled negotiations on multi-annual management plans between the European Parliament and the Council, so the Commission has not put forward its proposal for a multi-annual multi-species plan for the Baltic.

This has meant fewer working groups than planned. Nevertheless, BSRAC members have taken every opportunity to participate in the scientific meetings arranged to deal with the subject. This has meant travel to Rostock in March 2012, to an STECF working group on management plans, and to Copenhagen in November 2012 and again in February 2013 to take part at the ICES preparatory meetings and benchmarking workshops for Baltic stocks which will ultimately be included in a multi-species management plan: western and eastern Baltic cod, sprat and central Baltic herring, as well as spring spawning herring.

The BSRAC has still included input on multi-species management in its consolidated advice on the Baltic fishery for 2013, as well as in its paper on discards sent in October 2012.

- **Salmon management plan**

The BSRAC will follow its implementation closely and come with input, if and where relevant.

The Commission put forward its proposal for a multi-annual management plan for salmon in 2011. The BSRAC welcomed the Commission's proposal for a new management plan for salmon in the Baltic Sea region and sent recommendations on the proposal in February 2012. It pointed out that the successful implementation of a good management plan will safeguard and develop fishing possibilities for the interest groups concerned. The proposal has been dealt with in Council and by the EP's Fisheries Committee. However, the proposal is now pending with the co-legislators, so no further progress has been made.

Salmon remains a cause for great concern for all members of the BSRAC. A few organisations were positive about the ICES advice for salmon for 2013, but the fishing industry was unable to endorse the advice. So different viewpoints amongst RAC members were expressed, and one organisation abstained from making any recommendations on the advice.

At the same time this interlude has coincided with the fact that the Salmon and sea trout working group has been without a chair during the current year and no decision has been taken on a replacement for Gunnar Asplund who stepped down at the General Assembly in May 2012.

Selectivity in the demersal fishery

The BSRAC will be pro-active in putting forward its strategy of a roadmap towards discards. It will seek close cooperation with science in the collaborative (Lot1) project: Collaboration between the scientific community and the fishing sector to minimize discards in Baltic cod fisheries.

The work to produce recommendations on discards has been the core work of the BSRAC. In addition to its own working group meetings, BSRAC members took an active part in the BALTFISH meetings with MS and produced a response to the BALTFISH draft on discards. It also elaborated its own position paper after discussions at a Joint WG.

On the Lot1 project several BSRAC members attended a workshop in Karlskorona in May 2012 and invited the Lot1 project leader to take part and present the project at its ExCom meeting in June. Contact on this project continues.

A BSRAC seminar/conference

The BSRAC will arrange a seminar to deal with the main problems and drivers of the sea today, and what the ecosystem approach really means for fisheries as well as also for other marine uses.

The Seminar took place in September 2012 and a short summary is given in the section on meetings held.

A plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries: under the Priority Area on Maritime Safety and Security of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy

In January 2012, the BSRAC ExCom approved that the BSRAC would assume the role as lead agent in the flagship project to reduce the number of accidents at sea under the EUSBSR Action Plan. This activity was not included in the BSRAC budget, as external funding would be a precondition for carrying this out. During the year, the Swedish Fisheries Federation applied for and secured funding for the project and work started to prepare for a kick-off meeting of the project. The BSRAC facilitated the application work and kept the ExCom informed of progress during the year.

The meetings held by the BSRAC

The work programme 2012 -2013 planned for 1 general assembly, 3 executive committee meetings, 1 seminar/conference, 3/4 working groups/other meetings, one management meeting and a focus group. The BSRAC held one general assembly, three executive committees, two joint working groups, one seminar and one management meeting. The BSRAC also organised a kick-off meeting under the flagship project to reduce the number of accidents at sea under the EUSBSR Action Plan; this activity was outside the BSRAC budget.

Management meeting at the BSRAC to prepare and discuss the status of multi-species work for the BSRAC, BSRAC offices, Copenhagen 24th April 2012

This meeting was held for information, management and planning purposes. There was an update on the work being done by ICES, STECF and at Commission level on preparing multi-species management advice in the Baltic. It was agreed to hold again a joint demersal, pelagic and salmon/sea trout WG in 2012 to deal with the scientific advice for 2013. There was an update on the GAP2 project: Management of herring stocks in Skagerrak, Kattegat and Inner Danish Waters, in which the BSRAC is participating. Finally, there was an update on the planning of the BSRAC seminar on ecosystem management, planned to take place in September 2012 in Gdynia.

Executive Committee Ministry of Environment, Tallinn 5th May 2012

The meeting received an opening address by the Estonian Secretary General, Ministry for the Environment. A DG Mare representative gave information on the work so far with developing the multi-species management plan and on the salmon management plan and had a discussion with the BSRAC on how the RAC can provide advice on certain issues. The Secretariat presented the final accounts and draft final report for the year 2011 –2012 for approval, as well as the draft work programme and draft budget for the year 2012 –2013 for approval. These were all approved for recommendation to the General Assembly. There were updates by the Demersal and Pelagic WG chairs on the development of a multi species plan for the Baltic. The BSRAC chair gave an update and a suggestion for a new meeting of the RAC chairs and vice chairs in connection with a letter from the RACs to DG Mare and a reply from DG Mare on perspectives on the future functioning of the RACs. Selectivity in the cod fishery was discussed. Status was given on the EUSBSR Strategy flagship project: a plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries and an update was given on planning the BSRAC seminar on ecosystem management. An amendment of the statutes about the appointment of WG chairs for a period of three years was approved for recommendation to the General Assembly.

General Assembly Ministry of Environment, Tallinn 5th May 2012

No reports were given by the Demersal and Pelagic working group chairmen at this meeting. In connection with his annual report, the chair of the Salmon and sea trout working group took the opportunity to resign as chair, as did the rapporteur for this WG. The General Assembly approved the draft annual report presented by the ExCom chair and the draft annual accounts for 2011 – 2012, as well as the proposed work programme and the draft estimated budget for 2012 –2013. It approved the continuation of the current certified auditor to go through the 2012-2013 accounts. The General Assembly approved the election of members of the ExCom, the ExCom chair and the honorary chair for a new three year period 2012 – 2015. It also approved an amendment of the statutes concerning the appointment of WG chairs for a three year period. There was an update on membership of the BSRAC General Assembly and it welcomed the membership of the Swedish Cod Fishermen's Producer Organisation (STPO) to the General Assembly.

Joint WG (Demersal, Pelagic and Salmon/sea trout) Klaipeda Amberton Hotel, 13th - 14th June 2013

ICES scientists presented the ICES advice for the Baltic stocks for 2013, as well as multi-species considerations for future long-term management in the Baltic. DG Mare representatives presented the Commission's Policy Statement on Fishing Opportunities and explained the state of play on developing a multi-species multiannual management plan for Baltic cod, herring and sprat. There was a discussion of the advice and the multi-species developments, as well as the Policy Statement.

On the basis of the discussions held during the meeting, the WG agreed to draft recommendations and comments and to present them to the forthcoming ExCom for discussion, approval and adoption (subsequently approved by ExCom on 26th June 2013). The BSRAC advice for the fishery was sent to the Commission and Member States on 29th June 2012.

Executive Committee Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Copenhagen, 26th June 2012

The Secretariat gave an update on the spending and accounts, as well as status on membership of the General Assembly and ExCom. The ExCom went through the draft text of the BSRAC advice and recommendations drafted from the Joint WG for the fishery for 2013. The draft text was adopted by the ExCom. A scientist from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences gave an update on the LOT1 project: Collaboration between the scientific community and the fishing sector to minimize discards in Baltic cod fisheries. There was discussion of, but no decision reached, on a new chair for the Salmon and sea trout working group. The ExCom chair gave a report from the BALTFISH meeting which took place in Helsinki on 21st May 2012, Helsinki and had dealt with principles and working methods of BALTFISH and a the implementation of a discard ban in the Baltic. The Secretariat gave an update on the planning of the BSRAC seminar on ecosystem management to take place on 25th-26th September 2012. A researcher from the University of Gothenburg gave a presentation of his research project into the communication of knowledge, and expressed his wish to interview BSRAC members. Finally, there was a discussion on and possible request for a management plan for seals in the Baltic Sea, but no decision was taken for the BSRAC to formulate anything in writing.

Joint WG (Demersal and Pelagic) Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Copenhagen 20th September 2012

The Joint Demersal/Pelagic Working Group held discussions on the consequences of and the way forward to implementing a ban on discards in the Baltic Sea, basing its discussions on the BALTFISH technical working group discussion paper: Implementation of a ban on discards in the Baltic Sea. The BSRAC had been invited by BALTFISH to comment on the text.

The WG also discussed the state of play in moving towards a multi-species multi annual management plan for the Baltic on the basis of Commission's document: State of play with the Management plan for Baltic stocks of cod, herring and sprat. The members of the working group had constructive discussions on these subjects and agreed to produce a report consisting of BSRAC statements and initial opinions. They were subsequently approved by the Executive Committee in a written procedure and sent to the Commission and Member States on 31st October 2012. The Commission sent a response on 21st March 2013.

Comments to the BALTFISH paper on a discards ban were prepared by the ExCom chair and Demersal WG chair at a meeting at the BSRAC offices on 10th October 2012 and a draft was sent to the ExCom in a written procedure. A final version was sent on 12th October 2012 to Denmark, acting as lead agent on the discards issue in BALTFISH, for distribution to the BALTFISH circle. BALTFISH did not respond directly to this output, but reference is made in the BALTFISH paper of 6th November 2012 to consultation of the BSRAC.

BSRAC Seminar on ecosystem based management National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Gdynia 25th -26th September 2012

The aim of the BSRAC seminar on ecosystem based management was to discuss the implications of ecosystem based management for Baltic Sea fisheries. The seminar gathered 73 participants from around the Baltic Sea, representing a broad range of stakeholders, scientists and administrators. Presentations were given by invited experts, followed by panel discussions with invited participants and the audience. The aim of the seminar was to gain practical knowledge and practical implications of a changed perspective towards ecosystem based management compared to today and to discuss and consider the policy options which are available now and in the near future. No recommendations were produced from the seminar. A report was written, and the following overall conclusions from the seminar were drawn:

- The overarching objective of the MSFD is to have GES and everyone, including the BSRAC, agrees on this.
- The EAFM (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) is a continuous process, involving science from different disciplines and different stakeholders, and should continue to develop and form one piece of the puzzle of reaching GES.
- There is sufficient knowledge in some areas, but more science is still needed, not least regarding food web interactions and the influence on the ecosystem and thus on fisheries due to impacts from e.g. leakage of nutrients and hazardous substances.
- Many elements of the EA are already in place (e.g. technical measures, closed areas and closed periods), others will be implemented through the new CFP (e.g. discard ban, multiannual multispecies plans).
- The fisheries sector is not the only user of the Baltic Sea ecosystem, so a broad and open discussion and dialogue with other sectors is needed (not least as part of the MSFD), but it is still unclear who will take the lead. In order to have the necessary leverage, it should be the prime ministers (i.e. governments) who take the lead, as it is the obligation of governments and intergovernmental organizations to facilitate such discussions.
- Stakeholder bodies such as the BSRAC should help facilitate this process and dialogue, as it is essential for managers and decision makers to implement the results from this dialogue in a legal framework.

The report was sent to the Commission, Member States and other usual recipients.

Executive Committee Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Copenhagen 22nd January 2013

The Executive Committee had a discussion of the draft work programme and budget for the coming BSRAC year 2013 -2014. This gave rise to considerations on how to organise the work in future and a wider discussion in connection with the bullet points listed in the draft work programme concerning wider marine issues. A suggestion was made to change the structure of the working groups so as to have one to deal with fisheries resource management and another to deal with environmental issues. Support was expressed for this, but no decision was taken on it at this ExCom. An update was given on the EUSBSR flagship project: to lay the groundwork for developing a plan to reduce the number of accidents in fisheries and progress made with securing funding for the project. The Swedish BSRAC representative explained the work to be done in the project: to create a baseline with information on accidents in fisheries, for the Secretariat and experts to travel around the Baltic Sea and gather information and then to sum up and compare the results with the first baseline. There was a discussion on Lithuanian fisheries sector representation on the Executive Committee, but no decision was made or any conclusion reached. A representative from DG Mare presented the state of play with respect to Baltic fisheries issues being dealt with by the Irish Presidency, as well as future issues concerning further developments with the multi-species management plan for the Baltic. The Excom members discussed the questions that had been put by DG Mare on the role, composition and functioning of the RACs and confirmed that the BSRAC had already given an answer, drafted in response to the questions sent on 4th September 2012 by DG Mare to all RACs concerning a consultation on future role and composition of Advisory Councils. The Secretariat had drafted a response together with the ExCom chair and sought the approval by the ExCom in a written procedure. Reports were given by BSRAC members of BSRAC participation at various meetings of ICES and HELCOM. The ExCom took note of invitations to take part in EU funded projects under FP7 and help towards organising a SAMBAH workshop on harbour porpoises.

Kick-off meeting of the 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 Danish Maritime Authority, Copenhagen, 25th February 2013

Taking part were representatives from the fisheries sector and from government from the following countries: DK, EE, FI, GE, LV, LT, PL, RU, SE and from DG Mare. The meeting was moderated by a representative from the Danish Maritime Authority. He gave some background to the project and how the BSRAC had been identified as the relevant organisation to take the lead. A brief presentation of the goals of the project was given by the project leader from the Swedish Fishermen’s Federation. Representatives from each of the Baltic states gave a presentation on accident statistics from the sector in their country, current requirements for fishermen to be able to go out to fish and the education and training there available, and the procedure for reporting and registering accidents. A representative from DG Mare gave an overview of their involvement with maritime safety and their wishes for this project and reasons why this project is important for DG Mare.

There was a brainstorming by all participants on what the project should focus on, and agreement was reached on the way forward.

Advice/recommendations produced by the BSRAC

From the Joint WG of 13th – 14th June 2012

BS RAC advice and recommendations for the fishery in 2013

Summary of discussions on the development of multi-species management

Comments to the Commission's Consultation on fishing opportunities

Comments to the Commission's cod alignment proposal

Sent 29th June 2012

From the Joint WG of 20th September 2012

BSRAC comments to the BALTFISH paper: "State of play with regards to the implementation of a ban on discards in the Baltic Sea"

Sent 12th October 2012

BSRAC statements on: A discards ban and multispecies multiannual management in the Baltic (output from the joint WG on 20th September 2012)

Sent 31st October 2012

From the BSRAC seminar on ecosystem based management 26th September 2012

A report and conclusions finalised after the meeting and sent subsequently

Commission's written Consultation on the Future Role and Composition of Advisory Councils

BSRAC input to the Consultation sent 6th November 2012

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

In addition to the BS RAC's own meetings, the BS RAC has continued to be represented at a large number of other fisheries related meetings, conferences, workshops etc. Participation has not just been representational. The aim has been to promote and represent BSRAC aims and objectives, to gain a deeper understanding of the science and advisory processes and to contribute with stakeholder input.

The meetings are as follows:

A seminar on safety at sea held by the Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Services, Thyborøn, 16th March 2012

Sally Clink, Secretariat

STECF working group on multi-species management Rostock, 26th -27th March 2012 - dealing not only with the Baltic (but also N. Sea and Skagerrak)

Michael Andersen and Kim Kær (Danish Fishermen's Federation), Reine J. Johansson, (BSRAC chair) and Martin Ogonowski (FISH)

WWF Baltic Sea Scenario Planning Workshop Stockholm, 20th and 21st March 2012

Alex Olsen (AIPCE)

European Parliament Hearing on Regionalisation Brussels, 21st March 2012

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair) and Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Conference on CFP Reform held by the Democracy in Europe Organisation (DEO) Copenhagen, 23rd March 2012

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

FP7 project MYFISH workshop defining MSY constraints Vigo, 24th - 26th April 2012

Jesper Kobberø (ASECO) and Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

GAP2 workshop "Management of herring stocks in Skagerrak, Kattegat and Western Baltic", Copenhagen, 27th April 2012

Mart Undrest (Estonian Fishermen's Association), Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Danish Fishermen's Association Annual General Assembly Aalborg, 28th April 2012

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

The ICES Advice Drafting Working Group for the Baltic Copenhagen 7th - 9th May 2012

Reine J. Johansson, (BSRAC chair) and Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

EU Baltic Sea Strategy Steering Committee meeting of the Priority Area on Maritime Safety and Security Helsinki 14th May 2012

Vesa Karttunen (Federation of Finnish Fishermen's Associations)

Baltfish meeting Helsinki, 21st May 2012

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair), Ewa Milewska, (WWF), Steve Karnicki (honorary chair) and Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Pomórskie Association Conference on CFP Reform Gdynia, 25th May 2012

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair)

Presentation and discussion of ICES multispecies advice for herring, sprat and cod in the Baltic Sea to provide the basis for the first EU multispecies management plan,

Swedish Ministry of Rural Affairs, Stockholm, 31st May 2012

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair)

LOT1 project seminar on Collaboration between the scientific community and the fishing sector to minimize discards in Baltic cod fisheries, Karlskrona, 24th and 25th May 2012

Michael Andersen, Kim Kær Hansen, Thomas Thomsen (Danish Fishermen's Association), Nils Höglund (CCB), Krzysztof Stanuch (National Chamber of Fish Producers) Sally Clink (Secretariat)

EU Baltic Sea Strategy third Annual Meeting Copenhagen, 18th -19th June 2012

Sally Clink BSRAC (Secretariat)

Commission DG Mare seminar on fishing effort, Brussels, 5th July 2012.

Michael Andersen and Kim Kær Hansen (Danish Fishermen's Association), Sally Clink Secretariat

GAP2 annual meeting Brussels, 3rd - 6th June 2012

Mart Undrest (Estonian Fishermen's Association), Sally Clink (Secretariat)

**WWF workshop and conference on the harbor porpoise of the Baltic Sea Szczecin
28th -30th August 2012**

Piotr Gruszka (Polish Ecological Club)

BALTFISH Forum Tallinn 28th August 2012

Mart Undrest (Estonian Fishermen's Association), Henrik Svenberg (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

HELCOM/BALTFIMPA (Project for Managing Fisheries in Baltic Marine Protected Areas project meeting Helsinki, 6th and 7th September 2012

Vesa Karttunen (Federation of Finnish Fishermen's Associations)

FISHPlatform setting up of a platform for the safety of fishermen, Riga, 4th -6th September 2012

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

**Aquafima (Aquaculture supported fisheries management in the Baltic Sea Region)
Transnational Round Table Discussion, Vilnius 11th September 2012**

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Commission meeting: State of the Stocks Brussels, 26th September 2012

Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen's Association)

Meeting of RAC chairs and vice chairs Brussels, 27th September

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair), Sally Clink Secretariat

RACs-Commission meeting Brussels, 28th September 2012

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair), Sally Clink Secretariat

STECF meeting on the future of technical measures Dublin, 1st -5th October 2012

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation) and Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen's Association)

Espersen A/S celebration of 75 year anniversary, Bornholm, 5th October 2012

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

EFCA Administrative Board meeting Vigo, 9th and 10th October 2012

Apologies from Reine J. Johansson BSRAC chair due to illness.

Commission Expert Group meeting on technical measures in the Baltic Sea Brussels 24th October 2012

Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen's Association)

ICES/PICES Symposium on Forage Fish Interactions, Nantes, 12th -14th November 2012

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

HELCOM Baltfimpa and FishEnv meetings Gdynia, 13th -15th November 2012

Piotr Gruszka (Polish Ecological Club) and Krzysztof Stanuch (National Chamber of Fish Producers)

ICES Data Compilation workshop in preparation for WKBALT, benchmarking of Baltic cod, sprat and central herring, Copenhagen, 20th- 22nd November 2012

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation), Sally Clink (Secretariat)

WKPEL ICES data compilation workshop in preparation for WKPELA, benchmarking of Western Baltic herring (WBSS) ICES HQ, Copenhagen, 22nd-23rd November 2012

Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen's Association)

EUSBSR project Meeting with Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Services, on Health and Safety Esbjerg 4th December 2012

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

EUSBSR project meeting with Swedish Fishermen's Federation, Gothenburg 19th December 2012

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

ICES/RACs meeting (MIRAC) Copenhagen, 17th- 18th January 2013

Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen's Association), Magnus Eckeskog (FISH), Henrik Svenberg (Swedish Fishermen's Federation)

ODEMM (Governance models for regional cooperation upon Ecosystem Based Management) Roundtable discussion on “Creative thinking and smart choices”, Gdansk, 29th - 30th January 2013

Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen’s Association), Alex Olsen (AIPCE), Ewa Milewska (WWF) and Sally Clink (Secretariat)

ICES Baltic stock benchmarking meetings WKBALT and WKPELA Copenhagen, 4th - 8th February 2013

Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen’s Association), Magnus Eckeskog (FISH) Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen’s Federation), Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair)

HELCOM webex meeting on the Baltfimpa project Helsinki, 8th February 2013

Vesa Karttunen (Federation of Finnish Fishermen’s Associations)
and Piotr Gruszka (Polish Ecological Club)

EFCA Advisory Board Meeting Vigo 21st February 2013

Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Kick off meeting of the EUSBSR flagship project to reduce the number of accidents as sea Copenhagen 25th February 2013

Various fisheries representatives from the BSRAC.

Meeting of the RAC chair and vice chairs Brussels 28th February 2013

RACs-Commission Meeting Brussels, 1st March 2013

Reine J. Johansson (BSRAC chair), Niki Sporrang (FISH on behalf of the BSRAC vice-chair), Sally Clink (Secretariat)

Membership

General Assembly

The Polish Association of Fish Processors (PAFP), chairman Jerzy Safader became member of the BSRAC General Assembly in September 2012. The representative on the General Assembly is Ryszard Groenwald.

Baltic Sea 2020, Executive Director Conrad Stralka, became member of the BSRAC General Assembly in November 2012. The representative on the General Assembly is Jacob Hagberg.

The Bornholm FLAG applied for membership in July 2012. After consultation of member states and DG Mare, it was decided to invite the Bornholm FLAG to take part as observers to the BSRAC. A letter was sent on 30th September. No response has been received from the FLAG.

The European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions withdrew its membership during 2012. The BSRAC Secretariat has been in contact with the Danish Ports about possible membership, but this organization has not applied to join the BSRAC.

The General Assembly currently numbers 39 members.

Executive Committee

ExCom currently has 23 members since the withdrawal of the European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions, which was international member of the ExCom.

So one seat amongst the fisheries interest groups is vacant.

Membership lists are available on the BSRAC website and can also be obtained from the BSRAC Secretariat.