

Dear members,

BSAC news and meetings and other ACs

BSAC sub-group on ecosystem based management Tuesday 3rd October 2017, Copenhagen

This meeting was attended by 36 participants. Report will be available soon. A drafting group is working the BSAC recommendations on salmon management. Presentations from the meeting here, ASWELL AS the part report from the meeting on salmon:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-and-sub-group-on-ecosystem-bas>

Executive Committee meeting Tuesday 7th November 2017, Gdynia

The invitation and draft agenda are already sent, as well as an agenda for the workshop on selectivity. Please remember to register for this meeting by Tuesday 24th October 2017 AND to book your hotel room direct with the hotel asap.

All you need so far is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting>

The NWWAC held a meeting on the functioning of the ACs, Friday 15th September 2017.

The main focus of the discussions was the ACs after Brexit, but it then broadened out into a wider perspective of the future of the ACs in general. This means that the ACs unaffected by Brexit can't just lean back and say "we'll leave it to the Brexit affected ACs to sort themselves out" It really concerns all of us, especially as work on the new CFP won't be too far down the line. The PELAC Executive Secretary has kindly shared her report from the meeting – see **attached ./.** It illustrates the PELAC's perception of the meeting. PELAC continues discussions internally on the future functioning of the ACs, especially in connection with Brexit.

Vacancy in the NWWAC for the position of Deputy Executive Secretary

See here:

<https://www.irishjobs.ie/Jobs/Deputy-Executive-Secretary-Fisheries-8081897.aspx>

Please circulate and even apply if it's for you. Contact: **Dr Conor P. Nolan**, Executive Secretary

North Western Waters Advisory Council

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BALTFISH/Member States

Not that we know of, after the work done by BALTFISH up to the October Council.

Waiting to hear from DK BALTFISH Presidency about any plans to organise the workshop on recreational fisheries

Council/Commission/EU European Parliament / Control Agency news and meetings

The outcome of the October Council for Baltic fisheries 2018

Just for the record, the link to the Council website with a summary of the decisions made:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/10/09-baltic-sea-catch-limits-2018/>

The Regulation hasn't yet been published and BSAC isn't calculating all the figures.

Commission Delegated Regulation on the Advisory Councils

Commission informed that on 19th September 2017 the Commission delegated Regulation amending the delegated regulation on the functioning of the ACs was published today. Commission expresses the hope that this Regulation will facilitate the functioning of the Advisory Councils. Here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R1575&from=EN>

So, what are the changes?

Baltic Sea Advisory Council This news doesn't reflect the views of the BSAC or its members

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Article 2 Definitions

2 'Sector organisations' means organisations representing the fishermen and, for the aquaculture Advisory Council, aquaculture operators and representatives of the processing and marketing sectors.

Is replaced by:

"Sector organisations" means organisations representing the fisheries (including employed fishermen) and, where appropriate, aquaculture operators, and representatives of the processing and marketing sectors.'

Article 4 Structure and organisation of the Advisory Councils

2. The general assembly of an Advisory Council shall:

(a) adopt the rules of procedure of the Advisory Council;

(b) meet at least once a year to approve the annual report, the annual strategic plan and the annual budget of the Advisory Council.

is amended with the addition of:

'(c) decide on the classification of the members of the Advisory Councils under the categories "sector organisations" or "other interest groups". That decision shall be based on objective and verifiable criteria, such as the provisions of the statutes, the list of the members and the nature of the activities of the organisation concerned.'

3. The general assembly shall appoint an executive committee of up to 25 members. After consultation of the Commission, the general assembly may decide to appoint an executive committee of up to 30 members to ensure appropriate representation of small-scale fleets.

Is replaced by:

Based on designations from the sector organisations and from the other interest groups for the seats allotted to them respectively, the general assembly appoints an executive committee of up to 25 members. After consultation of the Commission, the general assembly may decide to appoint an executive committee of up to 30 members to ensure appropriate representation of small scale fleets.'

The Fisheries Committee meeting on 25th September 2017 Commission invited to an exchange of views on eel

Maybe this is still relevant, since no final decision on eel was taken at the October Council

At the Pêche Committee, Commission representative **Hélène Clarke** referred to what she called the critical state of the eel stocks and no improvement noted since the European Parliament expressed its concerns in 2013. She referred to the special request put to ICES and produced this May 2017. Discussions have been held with the Baltic MS. This has led to the proposal by the Commission to ban commercial and recreational catches in the Baltic. Article 8 is a small, but important STEP.

German MEP Werner Kuhn referred to the Commission's press release as a "bomb". His intervention also referred to the Commission's TAC proposal for western Baltic herring and for cod. He was critical of the lack of communication that has taken place between the Parliament and the Commission. He referred to the Commission's proposal on eel as an "arrogance of power". There had been no evaluation of the eel management and restocking plan. So he was surprised by the inclusion of eel in the Commission proposal.

German MEP Ulrike Rodust didn't want to criticize the initiative, agreed that the situation for eel is clearly very bad. She questioned the data sources used. Whilst welcoming the fact that more attention was being paid to this, it was important to identify the causes of mortality and there was a need for greater transparency. She asked if the Commission would prepare a ban for the entire EU.

MEP Linnea Engström spoke for the green members on the Committee and supported wholeheartedly the Commission's proposal. The Baltic had been specifically identified as an area for migratory eels.

Hélène Clarke, replying, commented that it was a radical proposal. There is no time to evaluate the eel management plans in place. There's a need for action. One third of the eel reaching marine waters are caught by fishing (other sources say this is 50%). She reassured that the EP will be fully involved. It is a matter of urgency and they had to use the Baltic TACs and quotas proposal as an opportunity to act. Moreover, she said, stakeholders were all recognising that this is a critical issue to be addressed. And stakeholders are needed to help tackle the issue. With respect to timing, the aim is for adoption in October with the ban to enter into force on 1st January 2018. Then an evaluation of the current eel regulation with the management plan during 2018.

The PÊCHE Committee meeting took place on Monday 9 October and Tuesday 10 October: super trawlers and recreational/subsistence fisheries on the agenda

The vote in committee on Technical Measures is postponed to a future meeting.....

According to the European Parliament, the objective of the **Super-trawlers: destructive or sustainable?** public hearing was to get a better understanding of the role of supertrawlers from the point of view of the industry as well as from a small-scale and artisanal perspective and to analyse the environmental and ecological aspects of super-trawlers. Industry and socio-economic perspectives presented by Europêche Vice-President Gerard van Balsfoort and LIFE Platform Deputy Director Brian O'Riordan. Environmental and ecological perspectives by Professor Pere Puig Alenyà of the Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) in Barcelona from an academic viewpoint and by Pavel Klinckhamers of Greenpeace speaking from an NGO perspective.

Here are the presentations made:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/events-hearings.html?id=20171002CHE02521>

The two hour workshop on **Marine recreational and semi-subsistence fishing** - its value and its impact on fish stocks brought together a team of scientists who've been working together to produce the report called EuRecFish which has been tasked to find out as much as possible about the two types of fishing: characteristics, economic and social value, the impact as well as recommendations and next steps. As MEP Ole Christensen informs in his latest newsletter, next year the Parliament Committee will release a report informing about the status of recreational fisheries in the EU and put forward recommendations to the Commission. The EuRecFish report from July is here:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/601996/IPOL_STU\(2017\)601996_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/601996/IPOL_STU(2017)601996_EN.pdf)

Our short report from both hearings **attached ./.**

Next meeting of Pêche Committee: Tuesday 21st November and Tuesday 28th November

Commission seminar Status of stocks seminar September 26th 2017 Brussels

Attending this seminar on behalf of the BSAC ExCom were Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) and Andrzej Bialas (OCEANA). **Report** attached ./.

Danish ministry meeting of the Dialogue Forum for Natura 2000 and the EU Maritime Strategy Wednesday 1st November 2017 13:00-16:00.

No agenda yet. But we can suggest points for the agenda. Anything?

Info day "EMFF – a wave of opportunities for Blue Growth" on Thursday 9 November 2017, Brussels

There's going to be a Sustainable Blue Economy call for proposals. There's a meeting about this and we've been asked to circulate the information. The call is one of the EU commitments for a more sustainable use of the oceans, so thanks in advance from the Commission for support to help deliver on that. A new "Sustainable blue economy call" with a total **budget exceeding €14 million** will be published under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund by the end of October 2017. EASME organises an information day for stakeholders interested in applying. You will have the opportunity to meet our experts who will be ready to answer any of your questions. The Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries **Karmenu Vella** will also be present. Quite a lot of focus on the Mediterranean.

Information leaflet **Attached ./.**

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/information-day-blue-growth-calls-under-emff>

Any questions on the call or this infopage, please contact our call coordinator Charlotte Jagot (T; +32 2 298 82 68)

The Inter-ACs coordination meeting 14th November 2017 (from 14:30 to 18:30) in Brussels

The Secretariat traditionally attends this meeting, together with chair and vice chair.

The chair is unable to take part at this year's meeting and has asked Michael Andersen and Andrzej Bialas to take part, representing fisheries interests and other interests, as well as the Secretariat taking part. ExCom been consulted, no items wanted put forward for the agenda. See here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Inter-AC-COM-meets-the-ACs-\(tbc\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Inter-AC-COM-meets-the-ACs-(tbc))

Landing obligation Workshop, 15th November 2017 from 9.00 to 17.30 in Brussels

This meeting is confirmed, and announced in the above invitation. The chair is unable to take part at this year's meeting. Taking part are Michael Andersen and Andrzej Bialas representing fisheries interests and other interests, as well as the Secretariat taking part. See here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Seminar-on-the-Landing-Obligation>

Stakeholders Seminar on the Revision of the Control System 16th November from 9.00 to 17.30 Brussels

The invitation and draft agenda are sent to various organisations, including some of the ACs. ExCom is consulted on this. No names from BSAC yet. See here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Stakeholders-Seminar-on-revision-of-the-control-sy>

EFCA Control Agency Advisory Board meeting 20th September 2017, Vigo

The report from Staffan Larsson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation) who represented the BSAC is **attached ./.**

MareFrame Policy Day and Final Conference 13th and 14th December 2017, Brussels: who

In brief, MareFrame has been about Co-creating Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions. It seeks to remove barriers that prevent a more widespread use of an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). It has been developing assessment methods and a Decision Support Framework (DSF) for management of marine resources so as to enhance the capacity to provide integrated assessment, advice and decision support for an EAFM. It's been enabling comparisons between relevant "what-if" scenarios and their likely consequences. MareFrame started 1st January 2014 and ends 31st December 2017. The BSAC has been taking part in a Baltic Case Study. To mark the end of the project, the Advisory Council secretariats have been specifically invited, as well as one representative from fisheries interests and other interests. The Secretariat has confirmed participation, as well as that by Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen PO) and Lindsay Keenan (The Fisheries Secretariat).

NAFO: The EU leads the way in implementing the ecosystem approach in the Northwest Atlantic (25th September, 2017)

At the meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), which took place in Montreal from 18 to 22 September 2017, the European Union was instrumental in advancing key conservation measures based on the best available scientific advice, aiming to ensure sustainability for the stocks and predictability for the industry's future.

Among other headline issues discussed by the 11 Contracting Parties were the protection of the vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), with the EU successfully advocating measures to further ensure that NAFO's VMEs protection policy is based on the best available scientific evidence and clear decision-making. Under the EU's lead, and in an effort to increase consistency, the Contracting Parties also agreed to communicate the NAFO VMEs protective measures to other national authorities regulating other industries than fisheries in the protected areas. In addition, NAFO agreed to protect the entire New England Seamount chain, by prohibiting bottom fishing on all peaks shallower than 2000 metres.

After two years of intense discussions, the Contracting Parties agreed to the EU proposals to prepare the ground for ending the wasteful discarding practice and to improve the catch estimation methodologies for better science.

Regarding control and enforcement, the EU continued to promote compliance of the EU fleet with NAFO rules, both at sea and in port, as well as measures increasing the efficiency of NAFO's control and inspection systems. Finally, it was also agreed to launch a new Performance Review exercise for the organisation.

The NAFO meeting took place for the first time under a revised NAFO Convention, which places a stronger focus on the ecosystem approach and streamlines the decision-making process by strengthening the obligations of Contracting Parties, while instituting a formal dispute settlement mechanism.

Other meetings – non EU - not exhaustive

Marine Ingredients was at the 2nd Submariner Conference – Better off Blue 27th - 28th September 2017, Berlin

Dealing with creating synergies for a biobased society, Marine Ingredients had the chance to present its company profile on Fish meal production and new marine protein sources – a Danish perspective. This came under the meeting session: Changing markets for marine protein sources in feed, it explored new ways to use marine raw materials such as mussels in animal feed. There was keynote speech about the current and expected market of marine raw materials, then presentation of pilot cases. Millions of participants at this two-day event. Don't see any report from the Conference yet. Website:

<http://www.maring.org/submarinerconference/>

Low Impact Fishers of Europe, 2nd October 2017, Hamburg: LIFE in the Advisory Councils

LIFE members of the Baltic and North Sea countries met in Hamburg for a workshop on the Advisory Councils. LIFE staff and EU officials took part to provide information and explain the working mechanisms of these European fora. LIFE in the Advisory Councils: Foot in the door, but more seats at the table needed. Too set in their ways, small-scale fishers find that Advisory Councils are resistant to change. Meeting in Hamburg Germany. They report here:

<http://lifeplatform.eu/life-advisory-councils/>

European Anglers Alliance reports on an event: “Marine Protected Areas and recreational fisheries: sustainable management and benefits”, 11th October 2017

Experts discussed what role anglers can play in the sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the benefits that allowing their activities in these zones can provide. One key message from this meeting was to balance conservation with recreational activities which engage people in the stewardship of the marine environment. European anglers (recreational fishers using rod and line) believe that MPAs should not be treated as closed natural reserves from which all human activities need to be banned. They also believe that access rules should be proportionate and appropriate with the different objectives of MPAs.

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/11994/recreational-fishing-fosters-thriving-marine-protected-areas.html>

Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities 12th -13th October 2017, Tallinn

Stakeholders are going to meet to discuss how the EMFF is helping to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Maritime Policy in the current programming period. It will also be an opportunity to discuss current and future challenges of coastal communities and policy responses. Mart Undrest, based in Estonia, will take part and send a short report.

INSPIRE final annual meeting and BONUS Symposium Science delivery for sustainable use of the Baltic Sea living resources 16th-19th October, Tallinn: who

INSPIRE: INtegrating SPAtial pRocesses into Ecosystem models for sustainable utilization of fish resources is a project which sets out to fill in the most persistent gaps in knowledge of the spatial ecology of the major commercial fish species and thereby support the effectiveness of the relevant policies and ecosystem based management of the Baltic Sea. During the past four years of the life of the project it has been working to answer:

1. What are the marine habitat conditions that characterise the spatial distributions of cod, herring, sprat and flounder?
2. To what extent do fishing and species interaction affect the local and basin-scale distribution of commercially exploited stocks?
3. What drives spatial connectivity and migrations of different fish species/populations?
4. How does stock structure and separation of natural populations impact stock assessment outcomes?

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation) has been following the project since the start and will be attending the final annual meeting in Tallinn. After that is the BONUS Symposium and stakeholder panel which Pehr Eriksson will also take part in. The Secretariat will be present at the two day Symposium

Marelitt: removing derelict fishing gear from the sea (the dates have changed!)

On 17th-18th of October, MARELITT Baltic invites you to Kolobrzeg and the surrounding coastal harbours to hear about the retrieval of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea. In an authentic environment, this meeting offers a mix of first-hand experiences including a site-visit to the harbour where ghostnets are landed and also workshops presenting the initial results of the first 1.5 years of the MARELITT Baltic project.

Agenda:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58525fe86a4963931b99a5d1/t/59afc40bf5e231fa3dc9030c/1504691213307/Program+Kolobrzeg.pdf>

This event was moved from September to October. The rapporteur will be taking part at this project meeting in another capacity, but will send us a short report. Krzysztof Stanuch (National Chamber of Fish Producers) is involved in the project and will be there.

ICES benchmarking meetings 2017-2018

See the overview, sent to us by ICES. Nothing specifically Baltic on the list.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/ICES-benchmark-meetings-2017-2017>

ICES ACs and MIACO meetings: 18th and 19th January 2018

The ExCom has been reminded several times. ICES has confirmed the dates: an ICES-ACs meeting in the morning of 18th January and then the MIACO meeting afterwards, continuing to 19th January 2018. The ACs have joint ownership of the ICES-ACs meeting. The BSAC is the contact point for planning the January 2018 meeting which will be in Copenhagen. We wait to get input from you (especially ExCom members), as well as from the other ACs.

It's all about harbour porpoises: Jastarnia Group meeting 12-14 March 2018.

Apart from informing of the date, this is to inform that they will be discussing the planning and funding of SAMBAH II, which according to Jastarnia action points must be initiated to start in 2021.....

Other information/reading

Support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – opportunities for coastal small scale fishermen

This leaflet explains all the options available for getting support to small scale fishermen: training, investing in a boat, gear, new engines, to improve fishing practices etc. Funding is co-financing between EU and Member States:

<https://publications.europa.eu/da/publication-detail/-/publication/847d577e-0f95-11e7-8a35-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Low Impact Fishers of Europe: LIFE

Newsletter July and August 2017!

<http://lifeplatform.eu/news-deck-july-august-2017/>

Fisheries Secretariat comments on the Commission's amended AC delegated act (mentioned above)

It reports on the Commission's amendment to the delegated act on the Advisory Councils. It explains that the amendment clarifies that when the General Assembly elects an Executive Committee, it is the Other Interest Groups in that Advisory Council who decide if a member shall be designated as an "other interest group" or not. While it is the industry members who determine if a members shall be designated as a "sector organisation" or not.

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/09/26/advisory-council-membership-amended/>

Fisheries Secretariat: Government blames Danish fishing industry for landing obligation failure

Published on October 3, 2017

Already in 2009 the Danish government shouldered the responsibility of eradicating discards in the Baltic Sea through a flagship project under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EUSBSR. Eight years later Denmark is blaming its own fishing industry for the failure to stop the continued discards, a practice that has been illegal since 2015.

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/10/03/government-blames-danish-fishing-industry-for-landing-obligation-failure/>

Fisheries Secretariat: New report highlights Danish and German failures in Baltic Sea fisheries management

Published on October 2, 2017

A recent briefing highlights environmental failure and missed socio-economic opportunities by the Danish and German governments.

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/10/02/new-report-highlights-danish-and-german-failures-in-baltic-sea-fisheries-management/>

Fisheries Secretariat asks when Baltfish and the EU Council will use the tools made available by EU reform 8th October 2017

It asks whether Baltfish recommendations, and thus de-facto decisions on quotas, based on – or consider – all relevant Articles of the Common Fisheries Policy? How skilled is the team at using the tools?

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/10/08/managing-baltic-cod-when-will-baltfish-and-eu-council-start-using-the-tools-made-available-by-the-2013-reform/>

Baltic Sea 2020

Save the Baltic Sea Cod – protect coastal fisheries: project news

The cod is the Baltic's most important predatory fish, but after many years of overfishing, cod stocks are now in crisis and decision-makers and researchers appear unable to do anything about the situation. Science has failed to predict what has taken place. Fishing policies have failed, while any measures taken have rather worsened the situation. BalticSea2020 is now launching a project to strengthen cod stocks, including a recommendation for a permanent ban on trawling for cod:

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/alla-projekt/rovfisken/fishery-ongoing-projects/404-save-the-baltic-sea-cod-protect-coastal-fisheries>

Baltic Sea 2020 Historical changes in length of the Baltic cod 21st Sept 2017

Researchers Henrik Svedäng and Sara Hornborg investigate in an article why the Baltic Sea almost completely lacks larger cod. They compare the Baltic cod stock with Öresund where there are cod in all sizes. One explanation may be that in Öresund, trawling has been forbidden since the 1930s. The Baltic cod stock, on the other hand, is exposed to a heavy fishing pressure with bottom trawling that focuses on the larger cods.

As the largest predatory fish, cod has an important function in the Baltic ecosystem. Without growth of larger individuals, space for other species with unbalance as a consequence is left. The researchers argue that the allowable fishing quotas are not sufficiently low for the cod to recover. A much more restrictive management of the Baltic Sea is needed, with a dramatically reduced fishing pressure.

Read the article by Henrik Svedäng and Sara Hornborg, here:

[Historic changes in length distributions of three Baltic cod \(Gadus morhua\) stocks: Evidence of growth retardation.](#)

The article was published in spring 2017.

Europêche reports from the October Fisheries Council: Troubled waters for Baltic fishermen 10th October 2017

Gives a summary of the results and includes statements from Peter Breckling, Union of German Cutter Fishery, who points out that the TAC cuts for western herring and cod will affect the small scale fishermen - they have to survive another critical year. From Danish Fishermen PO Michael Andersen says that fishermen find it hard to understand how the TAC for western cod has been set and he points to the continuation of the closed period for fishing cod:

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/e4ea650e-b09d-41a4-ac33-fd812da5de8a>

Swedish Fishermen's Federation reports on the October Council 10th October 2017

Giving the percentages increase and decrease on the various stocks and informs that the Swedish minister called on the Commission to propose new measures to safeguard the future of eel.

<http://www.sfpo.se/>

Fishermen unhappy about the new fishing quotas (in Danish) 10th October 2017

The same website as above, taking the news from Danish station TV2 Bornholm, reporting on the disappointment expressed by the Danish fishermen at the Council decisions for TACs and quotas, although happy that no decision was taken with respect to eel. It adds that Greenpeace in a written statement finds it alarming that ministers couldn't agree on eel and found it irresponsible that Denmark fought for an increase in the cod quota.

<http://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/fiskere-er-utilfredse-med-nye-fiskekvoter?category=news>

Eel won, but cod was the big loser 10th October 2017

Reporting from the Danish site FiskerForum.dk reporting on a partial victory for eel, but completely overshadowed by an awful result for cod with incomprehensible closed periods for fishing cod. It reports on the disappointment felt by the Danish Fishermen PO: closed periods are a thorn in the eye for the fishermen. Nevertheless, praise for the Danish delegation in Luxembourg and the efforts made by the minister Karen Ellemann.

<http://fiskerforum.dk/erhvervsnyt/a/oestersoen-aalene-vandt-men-torsken-tabte-stort-10092017>

Danish Fishermen PO Press release 10th October 2017

Follows the same lines as the article in FiskerForum

Starts with disappointment over the continuation of the closed period for fishing cod in the western Baltic, plus the introduction of a closure on the east and no increase in the TAC for western cod. The organisation's president called the decision incredible/unreliable (difficult to translate) and a direct harassment of Danmark and Danish fishermen:

<http://fiskeriforening.dk/pressemeddelelse-oestersoen/>

Sportfiskarna (linked through European Anglers Alliance into the BSAC) report on salmon being the winner and eel the loser at the October fisheries council 10th October 2017

They welcome the 5% reduction in the salmon TAC to 91.132 pieces as important for the wild salmon since the trend during 2017 has been a significantly weaker return of salmon to the rivers. They also refer to a worrying increase in the salmon disease M74 and an increase Polish salmon poaching fishing in the Baltic Sea. As for cod, it refers to the fact that no decisions were taken for more regulation of sports fishing, but to retain the current bag limit. They are happy that no further regulations were introduced for the sports fishing in Öresund. Finally, words of concern expressed about eel. See here:

<https://www.sportfiskarna.se/Omsportfiskarna/RegionNorrLuleå/tabid/129/Default.aspx>

Baltic Sea 2020: the Council decisions on cod go against the scientific advice 11th October 2017

It reports that cod was one of the big losers where ministers once again went against the recommendations from scientists for sustainable cod fishing. The article focuses on cod, its role in the Baltic and the advice and decisions taken. The article concludes by asking if there's any other activity where one actively and contrary to scientific advice destroys the source of one's income. Fish is a shared resource and voters have delegated responsibility to administer it to the politicians. Baltic Sea 2020 concludes that they are doing a bad job.

<http://balticsea2020.org/bibliotek/31-fiske/656-beslutade-torskkvoter-for-ostersjon-gar-emot-forskarnas-rekommendationer>

OCEANA state that EU ministers' decision to continue overfishing in Baltic Sea disregards economic gains of sustainability 10th October 2017

The press release focuses on cod and states that ministers turn their back on Baltic cod overfishing crisis again despite goal of sustainable fishing by 2020

<http://eu.oceana.org/en/press-center/press-releases/eu-ministers-decision-continue-overfishing-baltic-sea-disregards-0>

Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation General Secretary Karin Lexén sorry that agreement wasn't reached on eel 10th October 2017

But hopes that the December Council will be more successful. Also expresses regret that the TACs set for Baltic cod go beyond the advice from ICES

<https://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/nyheter/alen-far-ny-chans-i-december>

A resource tax on the fisheries sector? Danmarks Radio news 12th October 2017

This article reports on the fact that profits in the Danish fishery have doubled over three years: from about 50 mio. Euros in 2012 to about 100 mio. Euros in 2015. This is good news for the sector. Mogens Schou of the consultancy Aquamind has been interviewed by Danmarks Radio. He comments that things are going well for the sector, with a surplus now after the crisis years at the start of the century. Also interviewed is Poul Degnbol, professor at Aalborg University, and he explains that one of the reasons for the positive development is the quota system which made it possible for fishermen to buy and sell quotas: today there are fewer vessels and fishermen, but the economy of the sector is much better. Given this, Mogens Schou thinks it could be an idea to introduce a resource tax - a tax on the profits. Other examples given are the oil and gas industry - other natural resources where special taxes are applied. Both of them think that the small scale sector should be taken into account, so an extra tax is not a burden for them. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen Director of the Denmark Pelagic Producers Organisation (BSAC member) doesn't reject the idea, as long as it doesn't make it hard for the sector to invest. The idea has received a mixed reaction from the political circle in Denmark. The Danish ministry hasn't Read the article (in Danish):

<http://www.dr.dk/nyheder/penge/rekord-overskud-i-fiskeriet-eksperter-foreslaar-skat-som-paa-nordsoeolie>

Check out Eumofa Monthly Highlights and the consumption of animal protein: the place of fish

Yes, it's all about meat, and the global population is growing, but fish has a place there: (and it's not just plaice!):

<http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/106790/MH+8+2017+EN.pdf#page=14>

You can also whizz to page 17 and get an **overview of fish and aquaculture household consumption** July 2017 (up Germany and Sweden, compared to 2016, and down Denmark and Poland compared to 2016)

Funding Fish : call for proposals on fully documented fisheries

Funding Fish is a grant makers collaborative dedicated to achieving sustainable fisheries in Europe. It has launched a call for proposals for projects targeting fully documented fisheries and electronic monitoring, for more info see <http://fundingfish.eu>

We're asked to circulate. The information is available in English and French only. Award amount up to maximum 75,000 Euros for a period of up to 18 months. Call closes 31st October 2017.

Tristram Lewis

Director

Funding FISH

Tel: +44 (0)7538 642972

www.fundingfish.eu

Europêche also reports from the Our Oceans conference held on Malta 5th - 6th October 2017

<http://mailchi.mp/71581f20484d/eu-fishing-industry-makes-significant-commitments-to-preserve-and-sustainably-use-our-oceans?e=52e67dec7b>

HELCOM

Invitation to the Seventh Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 7-2017), 14-15 November 2017, Copenhagen

HELCOM has just sent an invitation and draft agenda:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/HELCOM-FISH-7-meeting>

To be decided who will represent the BSAC at this meeting in Copenhagen.

17th Meeting of the Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 17-2017) will be held on 23-24 November 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden. More at www.helcom.fi under upcoming meetings.

Invitation to the regional consultation on the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea report, first version 2017: open 1st October – 31st December 2017

HELCOM has sent a letter to the BSAC chair. The Secretariat has received a link to the actual survey. I enclose a pdf version of the survey questions. So the BSAC is invited to send a coordinated response. We are consulting with the chair on how to proceed.

Helcom Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017) will take place 23-27 October 2017, Sopot, Poland. More at www.helcom.fi under upcoming meetings.

HELCOM: Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea (FISH-M 5-2017), Stockholm, Sweden, 29 November - 1 December 2017

The Workshop will be held on 29 November to 1 December 2017, hosted by the Swedish Agency of Marine and Water Management in Stockholm, Sweden (exact address to be announced at a later stage). A key feature of the workshop is to organise it in cooperation with other organisations. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) have already agreed. BSAC to go to this???

Pharmaceuticals in Baltic waters – new report published by UNESCO and HELCOM,

15 September 2017

The report summarizes the occurrence, concentrations and pathways of pharmaceuticals into the environment in the Baltic Sea region

Tonnes of pharmaceuticals enter freshwater and marine environments yearly, mainly through municipal waste water treatment.

<http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/Pharmaceuticals-in-Baltic-waters--new-status-report-by-UNESCO-and-HELCOM.aspx>

Invitation to the regional consultation on the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea report, first version 2017: open 1st October – 31st December 2017

HELCOM has sent a letter to the BSAC chair. **Attached ./**. The Secretariat has received a link to the actual survey. The BSAC is invited to send a coordinated response and the ExCom is informed.

From the recent HELCOM Seal meeting 4th-6th October 2017

It links into the agenda and discussions at the BSAC sub group on ecosystem based management 3rd October 2017, so here the extract of the HELCOM SEAL meeting report:

9.1 The Meeting took note of information by BSAC concerning recent meetings of the new BSAC sub-group on ecosystem-based management (document 9-2). 9.2 The Meeting considered the request of BSAC to inform about known non-lethal mitigation measures for seals and the development of efficient mitigation measures and pointed out that the SEAL expert group's task is not to exclusively work on protection of seals, but rather that the group can provide discussions and information about seal abundance, distribution and health. The Meeting pointed out that alternative gears are being used in various countries around the Baltic

Sea and noted that the results compiled via a HELCOM questionnaire on alternative fishing gears was presented at the latest BSAC meeting.

Fishermen's health and safety

PA Safe next Steering Committee in Gdynia 9th November 2017

The Danish Maritime Authority and the Finnish Transport Safety Agency acting jointly in their capacity as Policy Area Coordinators for PA Safe are pleased to forward the draft agenda for the 17th Steering Committee meeting of PA Safe taking place in **Gdynia, Poland on 9 November 2017**.

A list of activities in the Policy Area and other supporting documents for the meeting and more practical information will be distributed in time before the meeting.

Agenda **attached** ./.

Europêche is defending full rights of fishermen in the International Labour Organisation 22nd September 2017

<http://mailchi.mp/2e9c3d38ce1c/europche-fishing-vessel-owners-defend-full-respect-for-fishers-social-and-labour-rights-in-ilo?e=52e67dec7b>