

Dear members,

There will probably be some news in December before Christmas. Please share news with us by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **BSAC news and meetings and other ACs**

#### **The new BSAC year 2018-2019**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December BSAC chair will send letter and invoice request for membership contribution for the new BSAC year. (ExCom informed at meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017)

#### **BSAC sub group on Ecosystem Based management Tuesday 3rd October 2017, Copenhagen**

All the reporting is finalised and distributed. Find all the documents on the website here, including a short report from the meeting in Polish:

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

No idea when the next meeting of the sub group will take place.

#### **Executive Committee meeting Tuesday 7th November 2017, Gdynia**

The report will be available very soon. But all the presentations are on the website:

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

#### **Election of vice chair at Executive Committee meeting 7th November 2017**

At its meeting on 7th November 2017, Andrzej Bialas (Oceana) was appointed vice chair of the BSAC Executive Committee.

#### **BSAC recommendations on Baltic salmon multiannual plan**

On 9th November, the BSAC chair sent to BALTFISH and DG Mare the BSAC recommendations to the BALTFISH draft Salmon Multiannual Plan. These were finalised and adopted by the ExCom at its meeting on 7th November 2017. Letter and recommendations here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/-BSAC-recommendations-on-Baltic-salmon-multiannua>

We don't expect salmon to be dealt with by Council before the end of this year.

#### **Secretariat meeting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Copenhagen**

For the chair, vice-chair and Secretariat staff to take stock, update and plan

#### **A joint BSAC BALTFISH workshop on recreational fisheries Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

This is a "pencil it in" meeting. The BSAC work programme for 2017-2018 states: the BSAC will consult internally and investigate the creation of a working group to deal with recreational fisheries. Moreover, the Danish BALTFISH Presidency includes in its work programme a joint BSAC BALTFISH workshop on recreational fisheries. More on this to follow.....

#### **Date of next Executive Committee meeting**

This will be on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the Danish Food and Agriculture Council. Working group chairs have been asked to consider whether they want to arrange a working group/sub-group back-to-back with the ExCom meeting. Members are also asked to pencil in Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for a possible joint working group/other meeting. (But see above on the workshop)

#### **The Pelagic AC on North herring**

The Pelagic AC refers to a YouTube link to the short video of the 2017 6a North herring survey.

<https://youtu.be/MpK3EZ5iJZo>



### **The Pelagic AC on a meeting to deal with BREXIT: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The PELAC has offered to arrange the follow-up meeting to the BREXIT workshop organized by the NWWAC held in Dublin in September 2017. The meeting will be in the morning of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Parkhotel Den Haag. The official announcement with more information will be made soon, but this email is intended to give you a heads up. Participation will be limited to 30 people which means that PELAC foresees 3 participants per AC as they also intend to invite the Commission and Member States. If less ACs are interested in participating than there might be more seats available per AC. BSAC will start by consulting the ExCom.

### **BALTFISH/Member States**

#### **Workshop on recreational fisheries ....**

The BALTFISH work programme under the Danish Presidency includes a Joint BALTFISH/BSAC workshop on recreational fisheries for cod. The task is to agree on the methodology of accounting for cod in the recreational fishery. The Danish BALTFISH Presidency has informed the BSAC Secretariat about planning this workshop. The date for this event is probably going to be Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

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

#### **Commission proposed fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2018**

07/11/2017

The Commission presented its proposal for fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and the North Sea for 2018. The Commission proposes quotas for 78 stocks: for 53 stocks the fishing quota is either increased or remains the same and for 25 stocks is reduced.

The fishing opportunities, or Total Allowable Catches (TACs), are quotas set for most commercial fish stocks that keep the stocks healthy, while allowing the fishing industry to profit from fishing the highest amount of fish.

As the size of some key fish stocks is increasing – notably for sole in the North Sea, northern hake and southern horse mackerel – so is the profitability of the fishing sector, with an estimated EUR 1.5 billion profit for 2017.

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, said: *"Our fleet is becoming more profitable and that is because some of the EU's key fish stocks are healthier and more abundant. The perseverance of the fishermen and the responsible fisheries management decisions stand to prove that sustainability and profitability can go hand in hand. That being said now is not the time for complacency. We must continue our joint efforts to manage our seas and oceans in a way that works for the environment, for the economy and for future generations."*

The proposal will be submitted for discussion and decision by the Member States at the December Fisheries Council (11-12 December in Brussels), to be applied as from 1 January 2018. [Press release](#) and [MEMO](#) available online.

**The Regulation 2017/1970** fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea is uploaded here:

[http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Home/Reg2017\\_1970Baltic2018-EN.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB](http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Home/Reg2017_1970Baltic2018-EN.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB)

#### **The Inter-ACs coordination meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (from 14:30 to 18:30) in Brussels**

Michael Andersen and Andrzej Bialas are taking part, representing fisheries interests and other interests. The Secretariat will also be there. **A report is attached ./.**

#### **Landing obligation Workshop, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 9.00 to 17.30 in Brussels**

Michael Andersen and Andrzej Bialas are taking part, representing fisheries interests and other interests. **Report is attached ./.**

### **Stakeholders Seminar on the Fisheries Control System 16th November from 9.00 to 16.30 Brussels**

Staffan Larsson and Michel Andersen took part. No one from the other interest group expressed interest. Report being finalised.

### **The European Parliament PECH Committee meetings:**

#### **Tuesday 21 November 2017 all day**

A busy agenda for this whole day meeting here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPECH-OJ-20171121-1%2b02%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

**One agenda item was: Towards a sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector: current status and future challenges**, on the basis of a report coming out of the European Parliament on Aquaculture. There was an exchange of views on this. There were many calls for development of the aquaculture sector, which is important in many EU Member States. The demand for fish is increasing and the gap can be met by aquaculture, and partially solve the problem of conservation of fish stocks at sea. There were calls for administrative simplification to make it easier for entrepreneurs to get authorization to create and set up aquaculture operations. There were calls to look at the EU Strategy on Blue Growth and what it contains for aquaculture. Economic support for the aquaculture sector important, including into research and development. There were also calls for better labelling, so the consumer knows exactly what he/she is eating – be it farmed or wild caught. The Commission representative informed that competence on aquaculture is the responsibility of the Member States. The Commission has been working on producing guidelines so as to help Member States understand and work with the different regulations, for example the Water Framework Directive. The EU will probably never be able to compete on volume of production from aquaculture, but can certainly compete on quality. And figures show that the value of EU aquaculture has risen almost 40% over the past decade – so increased quality, whereas the volume has remained more or less the same. Money is available (about 1 billion Euros) from the EMFF to be used for investment in aquaculture: MS have been slow to use this money. The Commission has launched a mid-term review and will be ready with this at the end of 2018. More innovation is needed.

**The dossier of the multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks** is going to be a difficult one. A draft report has been produced, it was discussed and there were quite a lot of views about the setting of quotas: should there, or shouldn't there be.

**Then there's the optimisation of the value chain in the EU fishing sector** and a working document under consideration. The rapporteur focused on how to improve the situation, what jobs are being created and what is the impact, need to focus on these things, as well as marketing the products, communication. It seems that many PO's are not making use of the possibilities available to. Also need to boost sustainability of the fleet: environmental and economic and social. How to differentiate between a sustainable product and any other? The report is available. This is a so-called own-initiative report. Was well received by members. Lots of agreement on the fact that quota and availability of fish caught has an important impact here on the EU chain. The Commission representative had a lot to say about this subject. Not all the EU tools available have been made use of: why not? Why aren't inter-branch organisations being developed? There are also market tools available. Implementation of the EMFF has been slow. The rapporteur will keep working and hope to ensure that this own initiative report will make a contribution to the sector: a Committee vote on this will be in March 2018

**State of play of recreational fisheries in the European Union and an exchange of views:** The rapporteur presented her report. She said there's no clear data related to recreational fisheries. It's a huge phenomenon, which affects a lot of people, but it's not quantified. The lack of data is everywhere, except for a few species, such as Atlantic cod and sea bass. There's a lack of definitions. The impact of recreational fisheries is huge on the ecosystem (but not measured) and this is her main problem. And what is the difference between recreational fishery and maritime fishery? She mentioned exemptions found by the sector to the Landing Obligation by means of making use of the unclear definitions. It's important to take some measures to prevent IUU recreational fishery. Recreational fisheries must come under the CFP. She took note that it's a provocative subject.

Committee Chair Cadec highlighted the real need for data on this sector. He called for recreational fisheries to be included in the multiannual management plans. But not to the detriment of the commercial fisheries: just so we know what's being fished.

The shadow rapporteur agreed that the data collection is not good enough. Called on MS to have proper data, proper data collection and to look at how the fishing equipment has developed.

There were calls for fairness so that both commercial AND recreational should bear the brunt of TAC/quota decisions.

The rapporteur took note of the real debate. This issue can't wait. ....

**Also on the agenda was the vote on the technical measures framework proposal .....  
which drags on into February 2018 and a vote in Plenary**

The Committee went through a lengthy vote on all the amendments. The legislative resolution was adopted by 20, with 5 against and 2 abstentions. Before taking a vote on whether to give the mandate to the rapporteur to take the dossier forward, the rapporteur Gabriel Mato took the floor and pointed out that there's an awful lot of issues, and this will add to the difficulties with this text. If it goes to a vote in the Parliament Plenary it risks to be very difficult, and the compromises that have been made could be rejected by the Plenary.

In the end the mandate was rejected and the majority vote has sent the dossier to the Plenary which will be in February 2018. Here's the press release from the Parliament 21/11/17 on the meeting and outcome:

**"Clear rules on prohibited fishing gear and more flexibility for EU fishermen"**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20171120IPR88437/clear-rules-on-prohibited-fishing-gear-and-more-flexibility-for-eu-fishermen>

**Next Pêche Committee Tuesday 28 November 2017 from 9.00 to 12.30 and 14.30 to 18.30**

Agenda for the meeting here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPECH-OJ-20171128-1%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

**EFCA: Conclusions of the last Advisory Board meeting held in Vigo on 20 September 2017.**

The Control Agency has sent the conclusions from the latest meeting. BSAC member Staffan Larsson already sent a report to the BSAC. EFCA conclusions **attached ./.**

**EFCA its work programme for 2018 and for the years 2018-2020**

**NOTIFICATION OF THE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT (PD) CONTAINING THE MULTIANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018-2020 AND THE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2018 OF THE EFCA**

We've received the above mentioned document signed by Mr Pascal Savouret, the Executive Director of EFCA. It's 74 pages long, BUT: See news here for the year 2018

<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/pressroom/efca-adopts-its-programming-document-2018-consolidating-definition-its-tasks-0>

And here the link to the multiannual programme 2018-2020:

<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/multiannual-work-programme-2018-2020-and-annual-work-programme-2018>

**From DG Mare on Our Oceans, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Malta.**

A big THANK YOU to all the ocean superheroes who actively contribute to the conservation of the oceans and seas for the present and future generations  .

Over 400 pledges were put forward at the 4th Our Ocean conference last October, when more than €7 billion were committed to the protection of the marine environment and its sustainable use. Explore all commitments per thematic area here:

<http://ourocean2017.org/our-ocean-commitments>

### **New scientific report shows positive economic trends for EU fishing fleet 29/09/2017**

Reporting from DG Mare. According to the latest Annual Economic Report, the overall economic performance of the EU fishing fleet improved again in 2015. The report is based on data provided by national authorities and the result of combined work by economic experts from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee of Fisheries and the Commission.

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/new-scientific-report-shows-positive-economic-trends-eu-fishing-fleet\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/new-scientific-report-shows-positive-economic-trends-eu-fishing-fleet_en)

#### **From DG Mare:**

Has sent the ACs a document prepared by BG Sea Consulting within the framework of their EU pilot project on Small-scale fishing: "Setting the scene to reinforce small scale fishing in the south western waters" These guidelines aim at mapping the measures to support small-scale fishing and could be of interest for all small-scale fishing associations. We have been asked to disseminate.

Attached ./.

#### **Other meetings – non EU - not exhaustive**

#### **Beyond 2020: The EMFF and Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities 12th -13th October 2017, Tallinn: reporting**

Mart Undrest took part and has kindly sent some lines. He has informed us that as stated in the information material, the main aim of the meeting was for stakeholders from all across the EU to convene to discuss how the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is helping to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Maritime Policy in the current programming period (2014-2020) and to have the opportunity to discuss the current and future challenges facing coastal communities, as well as potential policy responses. The webpage of the conference (<http://www.emff-now-and-then.eu/index.html>) gives quite a good overview of what happened. There are also all the presentations and materials from the conference and outcomes of different workshops held. One topic that was quite heavily discussed was the current status of the fund and how much the Member States have used the funds available. Since the outtake at this stage is around 2% for the entire EMFF, the Commission raised concerns that things are progressing very slowly and there is a threat that some of the money available will be lost. Member States reminded the Commission that there was a delay in the EMFF of two years and after that, it took some time to finalize the regulation and to present the Member States' national programmes and for the Commission to approve them. So everything is just starting to happen.

Then there was a discussion of how to become more efficient, how to raise the level on competitiveness, simplification and so on. This was pretty much the usual topics that we have all heard! But socially it was a very nice event, well organized by the Estonian presidency and the Commission, so hopefully the conclusions will be used in the next steps.

#### **ICES ACs meeting (pre-MIACO) and MIACO meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The invitation from ICES is on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/ICES-ACs-mtg,-MIACO>

As the BSAC offered to arrange the preparations for the pre-MIACO meeting (ICES and ACs only) the Secretariat will meet the ICES Secretariat next week to coordinate. The other AC Secretariats have been asked to send us input for agenda items. We've asked the BSAC ExCom. Now a friendly reminder to all members to send items for the agenda - both the pre-MIACO and the MIACO meetings. There's room at ICES for three representatives per AC and these will easily be filled. BSAC Secretariat is coordinating with the other ACs on the pre-MIACO meeting. See also the announcement on the ICES website:

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/MIACO-2018.aspx>

#### **ICES planning a Workshop on Evaluation of Input data to Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment**

23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. More to follow .....

**MareLitt project: mitigation of the ghost fishing problem in the Baltic Sea: 17th -18th October 2017, Kolobrzeg**

Please find attached a report from the meeting, with a couple of nice photos. 

**The BONUS funded BIO-C3 consultations by webex 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

There was a web conference to present **BIO-C3 stakeholder's consultations on biodiversity management tools** which will be organized in a form of the web conference. The webex was organized by Piotr Margonski, from the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Department of Fisheries Oceanography and Marine Ecology, Gdynia. They presented a concept and tools for a framework for adaptive, holistic management, which enable the evaluation of management measures. The BIO-C3 presentation included the project recommendations on new data, relevant indicators, models, and revisions of monitoring programmes providing information on what to monitor, necessary spatial coverage, temporal and spatial resolution, with a special focus on MPAs. The BSAC Secretariat has received all the presentations provided during webinar. Please contact Secretariat if you want them.

**MareFrame meetings 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**The full agenda now there:**

**<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/MareFrame-Final-Conference>**

From the BSAC Michael Andersen, Lindsay Keenan and BSAC Secretariat

**The Danish Ministry Dialogue Forum for Natura 2000 og Marine Strategy**

The Danish Foreign Ministry, where the Fisheries Agency is going to be based, has started work on Danish regulations for a series of areas under Natura 2000. In these areas are reefs and the proposal is to ban the use of botto0m trawls in commercial fisheries. Some of the provisions also apply to all commercial fisheries and to recreational fisheries. As far as I can see none of the areas is in the Baltic, but there is an area in the Kattegat. All the material, in Danish is here:

<https://hoeringsportalen.dk/Hearing/Details/61216>

**Other information/reading**

**Europêche reacting to the vote in Fisheries Committee on the Technical Measures Framework Proposal**

Europêche thinks the European Parliament has taken a decisive step towards the regionalisation of technical measures, but it regrets the delay and the wait until February 2018 for the vote in the Plenary

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/18fb23e4-9fa7-4764-b2cd-ee2044e0663f>

**EUFOMA monthly highlights September 2017**

In January–August 2017, first-sales value increased in Latvia, Lithuania and Portugal over the same period in 2016. The opposite trend was experienced in Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the UK. First-sales value remained stable for France. First-sales value of cod increased in Lithuania. Mackerel first sales increased in Belgium, Denmark, and Italy. First-sales volume of Norway lobster increased in Denmark and Norway, but decreased in Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK. No specific focus on Baltic stocks or markets this month.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8f50ddacc29d98ce55398bbd0/files/fe158e23-b39c-48c5-9b13-af8c3c1209b8/MH\\_9\\_2017.pdf?ct=t\(NEWS\\_ADVISORY\\_EUMOFA\\_Monthly\\_Highlights\\_11\\_22\\_2016\)](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8f50ddacc29d98ce55398bbd0/files/fe158e23-b39c-48c5-9b13-af8c3c1209b8/MH_9_2017.pdf?ct=t(NEWS_ADVISORY_EUMOFA_Monthly_Highlights_11_22_2016))

**Here's the Eumofa report for 2017 on The EU Fish Market 2017**

This report aims to provide an economic description of the entire European fisheries and aquaculture industry: what's produced/exported/imported, when and where, what is consumed, by whom and what are the main

trends? It uses data available from June 2017. The EU seafood market has been growing steadily in the last years. It's been another record year for fish imports. There's been continuous growth of the value of Member States' exports to non-EU countries. Intra-EU trade rose by over EUR 2 billion in 2016 compared to 2015. EU self-sufficiency for seafood showed a slight decrease from 2014 to 2015. In 2015, products landed in the EU reached an 8-year peak at 4,68 million tonnes, mostly driven by Denmark. There was a 4% value drop in EU landings to EUR 6,95 billion: Spain, the main EU fishing country, was the main contributor to the overall value loss. See it all here:

<http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/108446/The+EU+fish+market+2017.pdf>

**Low Impact Fisheries: LIFE's Newsletter for September (not seen an October issue yet)**

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

**The Fisheries Secretariat: has had a job advert running: Help fish and fishermen (20 October 2017)**

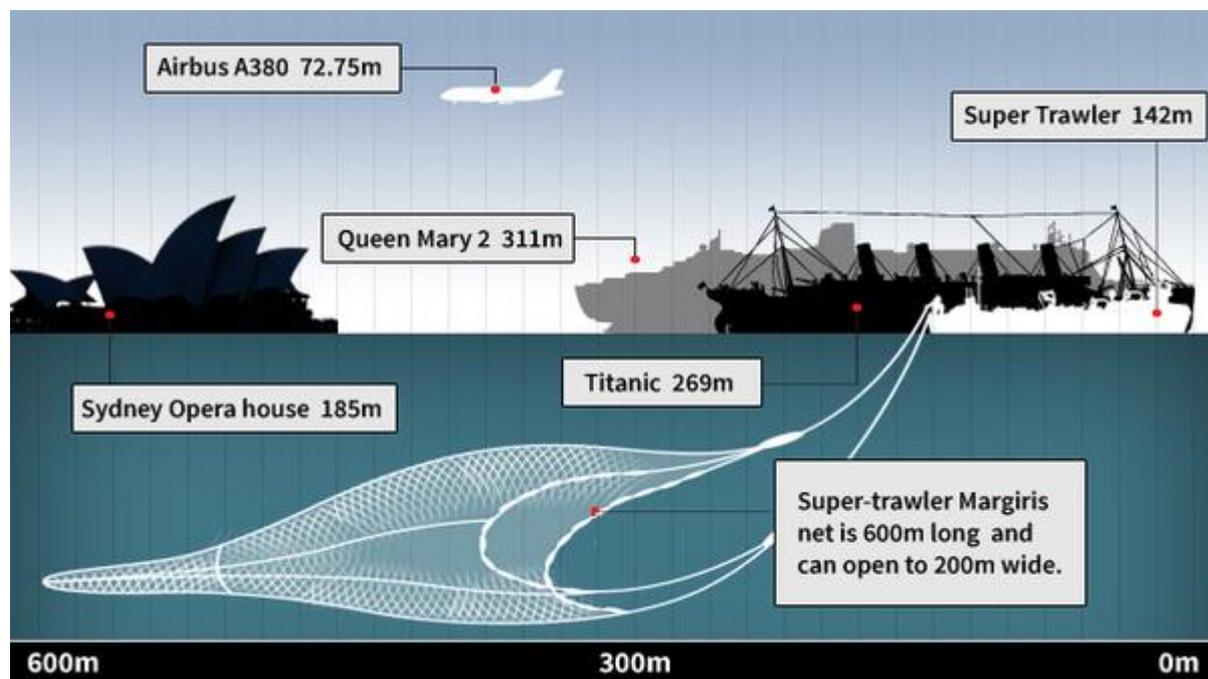
<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/10/20/job-opportunity-help-fish-and-fishermen/>

**From the Fisheries Secretariat: Precautionary approach ignored – data poor stocks overfished**

Published on October 18, 2017. This year's quota setting for Baltic cod raises serious questions as to whether data poor fish stocks receive necessary protection and the precautionary approach is being applied, which, it states according to experts is a legal obligation:

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/10/18/precautionary-approach-ignored-data-poor-stocks-overfished/>

**The Skipper, Published on October 26, 2017 on supertrawlers**



The question of supertrawlers once again came to the table in a debate set by the the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament (PECH) on October 9th last. We reported on this in last newsletter. The debate was chaired by Alain Cadec, Chairperson on the Committee for Fisheries and held in the European Parliament. In a statement prior to the debate Mr Cadec said "The idea (of the debate) is to get to know better this segment of the fishing fleet and to understand its way of working. The objective of the Common Fisheries Policy is to make fisheries sustainable for all fleets, whether artisan or industrial, in order to reach the maximum sustainable yield possible. Therefore, it is not a question of vessel size but of fishing technique. We have to

pay attention not to direct one part of the fleet against the other, artisan against industrial fisheries: both have to respect the rules and both play an important role in the supply of EU consumers with quality fish and seafood products. Member States play an essential role in ensuring a sustainable distribution of quotas between the different fleets. I recall that Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy requires the fisheries policy to take into account the environmental impact and its contribution to the local economy and the catch volume. Furthermore, they have to offer incentives to those fishing vessels that have selective engines or make use of certain techniques that have a low impact on the environment, such as a low fuel consumption and minimal damages to the marine habitat. On the other hand, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund supports important investments in sustainability, selectivity and competitiveness of fishing vessels. We will ask the invited experts to enlighten us on these issues.”

The invited experts taking part in the debate was Pavel Klinckhamers International Project Leader West African Oceans Greenpeace Netherlands, Brian O’Riordan Deputy Director, Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE), Gerard van Balsfoort vice-president Européche & President of the Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association (PFA) and Pere Puig, Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM-CSIC) Barcelona, Spain. The supertrawler has become a global concern and for many, the term supertrawler has come to signify a form of intensive factory fishing mainly focused around small pelagic species such as herring, mackerel and other related mid-water fish. As Gerard van Balsfoort explained "We have pelagic freezer-trawlers and Refrigerated Seawater (RSW) pelagic trawlers."

**The Danish news information ALTINGET from 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 on the decision by WWF Denmark to focus more on environmental and nature issues than climate**

Some biologists are over the moon, whilst climate experts regret the new direction taken by WWF Denmark to put less emphasis on climate work and more on protecting nature. In its report (in Danish), Altinget explains that more focus will be put on concrete projects to protect nature and its species. An article in Altinget reports on the different viewpoints put forward by those who support or oppose the change of focus. Bo Øksnebjerg, General Secretary of WWF gave an interview to Altinget. The interview, in Danish, is here:

<https://www.alinget.dk/artikel/wwf-vil-redde-flere-tun-og-aber-og-tale-mindre-om-klima>

And the more general report on developments is here:

<https://www.alinget.dk/energi/artikel/kritik-af-wwf-i-svingter-klimakampen-ved-at-fokusere-paa-soede-dyr>

**FARNET news November 2017**

Their website just doesn’t work at the moment.

**Baltic illegal discarding worsens despite landing obligation from FIS: Fish Information and Services, 17th November 2017: Thrown Away: How Illegal Discarding in the Baltic Sea is Failing EU Fisheries and Citizens: report by Our Fish**

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=94775&nb=1&df=0>

Compliance with the reformed Common Fisheries Policy’s Landing Obligation is almost non-existent in the Baltic Sea, exposing the European seafood supply chain to unprecedented levels of illegal behaviour, a new report warns.

The document, titled *Thrown Away: How Illegal Discarding in the Baltic Sea is Failing EU Fisheries and Citizens* and published by campaign group Our Fish, urges EU Member States to immediately act on implementation of proven monitoring and enforcement programs in order to end illegal and wasteful discarding.

The analysis finds EU government responses to the Landing Obligation have in some cases made discarding worse while clear advice on effective tools to monitor and control the law is being ignored. The campaign group insists that this situation is failing the almost 900,000 EU citizens who actively supported a ban on discards during the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). “EU citizens expect national governments and EU authorities to uphold the laws they have signed up to – yet fisheries ministers are not keeping their end of the bargain,” said Our Fish Programme Director Rebecca Hubbard.

“If EU governments are serious about ending wasteful and illegal discarding, it is clear that they have to stop

dodging responsibility, and put in place effective electronic monitoring and enforcement programs, only giving quota top-ups to fishing fleets who can prove that they comply with the law,” she stated. Hubbard pointed out that retailers and customers throughout Europe may be shocked to find out that cod on their supermarket shelves is likely to be from a Baltic fishery that is illegally discarding. In her view, retailers should insist that electronic monitoring is promptly implemented in order to ensure compliance in the supply chain, clarifying that the problem of discards is particularly alarming in the case of Baltic cod, but not at all limited to these fisheries. The published report outlines how 90 per cent of undersize Baltic cod is still being discarded – in 2016 alone, some 11.5 million Baltic Sea cod were discarded illegally. In addition, it stresses that the reduction in Minimum Conservation Reference Size for eastern Baltic cod has resulted in a worsening of fishing selectivity, through the incentivising of commercialization of smaller size eastern cod, and has had no apparent effect on reducing discard rates. Furthermore, the report includes a series of recommendations, such as:

- Initiate electronic monitoring programmes, starting with demersal mixed trawl fisheries, to improve data collection and compliance rates, and gather evidence of suspected violations;
- Allocate TAC adjustments to national fishing fleets that have high at-sea monitoring coverage or can demonstrate that they are complying with the LO; and
- Reallocate quota at a national level to those vessels that can demonstrate they are operating in compliance with the LO.

[editorial@fis.com](mailto:editorial@fis.com)  
[www.fis.com](http://www.fis.com)

The report from Our Fish is here:

<http://our.fish/en/2017/11/15/new-report-exposes-illegal-discarding-baltic-fish-fails-eu-citizens/>

And the Fisheries Secretariat asked the BSAC Secretariat to include a link to the Our Fish report on discards, and refer other earlier reports from Our Fish:

<http://our.fish/en/2017/08/28/new-report-highlights-germanys-blind-spot-for-sustainable-fisheries/>

<http://our.fish/en/2017/08/29/how-denmark-can-make-fisheries-fair-and-sustainable/>

### **Baltic Eye on economic perspectives in the scientific advice: “ecological constrained Maximum Economic Yield (eMEY)” using the eastern Baltic cod as an example.**

Gustaf Almqvist, PhD, Researcher, fish ecology and fisheries, at Baltic Eye, Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre has asked us to share the above report. His colleague Maciej Tomczak has just published a paper together with among others Rudy Voss from the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel (Rudy is the main author). It is about including economic perspectives in the scientific advice, and they introduce the concept “ecological constrained Maximum Economic Yield (eMEY)” using the eastern Baltic cod as an example. The main message is that setting catch limits above scientific advice is bad business also for the fishing industry. the Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre has an article about the paper, including a film clip in which Rudy is interviewed, at our Baltic Eye web page: <http://balticeye.org/en/fisheries/emey-sustainable-baltic-sea-cod-fishery/>

### **Plastics: No increase in marine microplastic concentration over the last three decades – A case study from the Baltic Sea**

The abstract says that microplastic is considered a potential threat to marine life as it is ingested by a wide variety of species. Most studies on microplastic ingestion are short-term investigations and little is currently known about how this potential threat has developed over the last decades where global plastic production has increased exponentially. This study presents the first long-term study on microplastic in the marine environment, covering three decades from 1987 to 2015, based on a unique sample set originally collected

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

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and conserved for food web studies. It looks at microplastic concentration in plankton and in the digestive tracts of Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) and European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*). Surprisingly, neither the concentration of microplastic in the plankton samples nor in the digestive tracts changed significantly over the investigated time period. The study highlights that even though microplastic has been present in the Baltic environment and the digestive tracts of fishes for decades, the levels have not changed in this period. This underscores the need for greater understanding of how plastic is cycled through marine ecosystems. See here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969717328024>

### **An interview/questionnaire on Baltic eutrophication film - short survey on engagement: you can still make it**

A communications organisation TV/e produces films and multimedia content on sustainable development issues. They are currently developing a film on the topic of eutrophication in the Baltic Sea and would welcome input via [a short survey](#). It will be extremely valuable to them in creating impactful content, so they want your expertise and contribute to promoting responsible attitudes and improved ocean health around Europe. tve is currently working as part of [ResponSEABLE.EU](#), a 16-partner European-wide research and communications project to increase awareness and understanding of ocean-health issues. We aim to inspire Europeans to take a closer interest in their oceans and to treat them with greater respect. ResponSEABLE is collecting leading European marine research and local knowledge to further our understanding of human-ocean relationships and how to protect marine ecosystems and the varied economic benefits that we derive from our seas. As part of the ResponSEABLE project, tve will be producing a series of six short films on key ocean issues in Europe, including this one on eutrophication in the Baltic Sea. They warmly welcome BSAC views on using film to communicate to key audiences, and so invite us to please complete the following short survey: <http://link.tve.org/2xmNXI8>

We've been asked to send it to members. They are very happy to receive feedback from as many experts as possible in this field. Contact: Stefen Sandell, research and communications. They hope to have a confirmed location and story at about the end of November, so any further input by then would be helpful.

[tve.org](http://tve.org)

tve is the trading name of Television for the Environment. Television for the Environment is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (registered office 292 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, London SW1V 1AE, company number 1811236) and a registered charity (charity number 326585).

### **GLOBEFISH - Analysis and information on world fish trade**

This is a useful website page with a general overview on market access information by country.

#### **The regulatory framework - a brief guided tour**

[http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/market-assets/en/?utm\\_source=Globefish+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=15bea0057c-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_11\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_41b353cc51-15bea0057c-322817733](http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/market-assets/en/?utm_source=Globefish+Newsletter&utm_campaign=15bea0057c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_11_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_41b353cc51-15bea0057c-322817733)

### **EMODNET: We are very pleased to announce the launch of our new website!**

It's all about marine data, how to bring it all together, through a network of organisations to observe the sea, process the data and disseminate the information. The website is the central hub for all their services and information delivering latest news and supporting the community with an easy-to-use interface. Have a look at:

[www.emodnet.eu](http://www.emodnet.eu)

**Oceana study: Rebuilding overexploited Danish fisheries could generate 248 million euros annually to fisheries sector** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

According to a new study by OCEANA, if Danish fisheries were healthy and well managed over the next ten years, the total revenues in the fishing sector would increase by at least 248 million EUR and in the direct fishing industry alone 900 new jobs would be created. See here:

<http://eu.oceana.org/en/press-center/press-releases/oceana-study-rebuilding-overexploited-danish-fisheries-could-generate>

**Intrafish newspaper November issue** features:

- On onboard processing: according to the article, which focuses on whitefish, onboard processing is growing due to increasing demand for fresh or single frozen whitefish. Being able to do some of the extra processing steps onboard the vessel saves costs and time, but it requires equipping the vessels with the latest technology. Lessons are being learnt from the salmon processing industry in order to increase the quality of the whitefish products. But they've got to move from the blocks to fillets .....
- And FAO: Global seafood production to hit 194 million tonnes by 2026 (OECD-FAO Outlook 2017-2024), according to the report, most of the growth will be concentrated in developing countries and aquaculture the main driver).

**Intrafish December issue** will feature:

- Climate change threatening Scotlands mackerel, herring and haddock
- Lower Barents Sea cod and haddock TACs shouldn't upset the market

**Eurofish October magazine** [www.eurofishmagazine.com](http://www.eurofishmagazine.com)

Carries two articles on pelagics:

- a report on the changing herring trends on major markets from the North Atlantic Seafood Forum in Bergen – projecting a total increase of 7% for landings of pelagic species for human consumption
- a market report on global small pelagics landings - increase in landings expected due to expected higher catch of Peruvian anchovy, as well as Atlantic mackerel, and Atlantic herring.
- A short report from Latvia where the processing industry is showing cautious signs of recovery from the loss of markets (Russian ban in imports of processed fish products from the EU has affected Latvia and Estonia)
- "Fighting the landing obligation" : Interview with Javier Garat, who apart from being president of Europêche, is also General Secretary of the Spanish Fishing Confederation COPECA

**European Anglers Association on cormorants** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The EAA refers to a Motion for a Resolution on an "EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy" tabled at the EP Plenary Session by an MEP. The aim was to raise the issue of the need for improved management of cormorants. The EAA stresses the need for more effective cormorant management in the EU. See here:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/12070/cormorant-management-european-parliament.html>

**The Swedish Fishermen's Federation gives Five reasons to be hopeful about fisheries in 2017** 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017

According to the article, despite major challenges facing the oceans, fishing communities around the world can be thriving and abounding in fish within our lifetimes. Improving management and practices can lead to healthier oceans that in turn support more fish in the water, more food for communities and improved livelihoods for fishermen. See the link, and note that it in turn links to a blog from the Environmental Defense Fund (BSAC member):

<http://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/five-reasons-to-be-hopeful-about-fisheries-in-2017?category=news>

## HELCOM meetings and news

### **The HELCOM questionnaire on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques**

At the BSAC workshop on selectivity in the demersal fishery 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a Polish Ministry representative referred to the invitation from HELCOM to the BSAC to comment on the HELCOM Questionnaire on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques, to provide information on other tests of alternative fishing gears if available and to discuss if permanent cooperation between HELCOM FISH and BSAC on this issue can be established. She also asked for comments to the idea of having such a questionnaire, and whether there is room within the BSAC to work on this issue further, together with HELCOM FISH and where (perhaps in the BSAC ecosystem based management sub-group?) and if whether members have any knowledge on the tests of alternative fishing gears/techniques which are not included into the questionnaire. It was decided to send it the participants of the meeting (including the speakers). The expected deadline for comments is **Friday 8th December 2017.**

### **HELCOM HOLAS II Invitation to the regional consultation on the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea report, first version 2017: open 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

The BSAC has been invited to send a coordinated response. We informed you about this by letter 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 (we sent you HELCOM's letter to the BSAC chair and the pdf version of the survey questions). There are many sections in the questionnaire (25). The draft HOLAS II report contains 8 chapters, including one on planned further work. After coordinating with the chair and vice chair, The Secretariat has invited ExCom to send input to the questionnaire by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.** The pdf version of the survey is attached ./.. The HELCOM report is here:

<http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/>

We suggest focus on the sections that relate to fisheries, but this does not exclude anything else you may want to comment on. It's difficult to highlight specific chapters, because fisheries as well as other subjects that relate to ecosystem based management feature throughout. Chapter 1 is descriptive, Chapter 2 gives an overview of the holistic assessment, Chapter 3 describes the human activities (including fisheries), Chapter 4 the pressures (including hunting and fishing), Chapter 5 biodiversity (including fish), Chapter 6 on cumulative impacts and pressures on the marine environment. The Secretariat would like to collate contributions received and prepare a joint reply.

### **The Seventh Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 7-2017), 14-15 November 2017, Copenhagen**

No BSAC representation at this meeting. Marcin Rucinski (LIFE) and Katarzyna Kaminska from the Polish administration relayed the topics discussed in the BSAC. The HELCOM report from the meeting **is attached ./.**

**The Regional workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea 2017** Wednesday 29 November - Friday 1 December 2017, Stockholm. Michael Andersen and Lindsay Keenan will represent the BSAC.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/HELCOM-workshop-on-eel-and-the-Baltic>

The workshop will gather representatives from management bodies, scientific experts and relevant stakeholders in charge of assessment and management of eel in countries around the Baltic Sea and its tributaries to:

- update each other on regional and international processes and their role/contribution to eel assessment and management in the Baltic
- exchange information on national eel assessment and management
- discuss similarities, differences, challenges and opportunities
- propose next steps towards the aim of a Baltic wide stock status assessment and facilitating subsequent action, to be further developed at the appropriate fora (HELCOM FISH work plan, Action 3.7).

The agenda is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/HELCOM-workshop-on-eel-and-the-Baltic>

### **The 17th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 17-2017), Gothenburg, Sweden, 23-24 November 2017**

On the agenda for this meeting are:

- information on the progress of the update of the State of the Baltic Sea report,
- information on the progress of preparations for the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018,
- the outcome of the joint HELCOM/OSPAR meeting on underwater noise,
- the roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach,
- the way forward in investigating reasons why GES has not yet been reached,
- region wide needs with regards to national reporting for the MSFD,
- possibilities with regards to coordination of, and next steps on, the aspects of the revised Commission Decision on Good Environmental Status which require regional cooperation.

### **Fishermen's health and safety**

#### **Europêche on maintaining the momentum on safety and labour conditions**

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/eu-social-partners-keep-up-momentum-on-safety-and-labour-conditions-in-fishing-169063>

On 9th November 2017, during their annual plenary meeting, the EU Social Partners in the fisheries sector (Europêche<sup>1</sup> and ETF<sup>2</sup>) met with the specialised agencies of the United Nations which play a vital role in fishers' safety at sea and working conditions. Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) together with the European Commission (EC) and Social Partners laid the foundations for a comprehensive action plan to raise awareness and jointly promote worldwide all relevant international instruments on fisheries to ultimately improve safety and labour conditions.