

Nr 25th January 2018

Dear members,

Happy belated New Year!

As you skim through this news, you'll see that the proposal for an EU technical measures regulation keeps recurring. The vote in the European Parliament has happened, the results are known, but we want to show how much importance was and is attached to this dossier.

We wrote to members before Xmas and asked for contributions by 22nd January 2018
For the next newsletter, please let us have contributions by February 23rd 2018

BSAC news and meetings and other ACs

The BSAC-BALTFISH Joint Workshop on recreational cod fishery Monday 29th January 2018

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Joint-BALTFISH-BSAC-workshop-on-recreational-fishe>

This joint workshop is ready to run, with over 50 participants registered (from BSAC, Member States, science and EU institutions. We look forward to sharing the report and outcome of the meeting

The BSAC Executive committee meeting Tuesday 30th January 2018

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-\(2\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-(2))

This meeting is also prepared and ready to run. A key item for the Secretariat is the draft estimated expenditure and draft work programme for the year 2018-2019.

Coming BSAC meetings

Dates for coming meetings will be confirmed as soon as possible after the Executive Committee meeting. It's possible that there will be a sub group on EBM before the end of March. We hope to be able to announce the dates of the next ExCom and General Assembly for 8th and 9th May 2018.

Update on preparing for the budget for the new BSAC year 2018-2019: good news!

It might have been a quiet start for some, but not for the Secretariat. We've been checking and registering. The Secretariat is pleased to inform that almost all members have sent their contribution for the year to come. Almost all Member States have done the same. Thank you to everyone.

Leaving the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation

Ellen Bruno of this General Assembly member will be leaving at the end of the month to join the Scandinavian office of the Marine Stewardship Council. Good luck with your new job, Ellen. She will let us know who her successor will be.

BSAC consultation about Gulf of Bothnia herring: final version of reply to be sent from the BSAC

On 8th January 2018 the ExCom was consulted about the Gulf of Bothnia herring.

This is a proposal from the Commission to amend the Baltic multi annual plan to revise the values and ranges for Gulf of Bothnia herring.

Please find attached the recommendation that was finalized and signed by the BSAC chair and vice chair **J.**

The Finnish government has sent thanks for the BSAC initiative and response; it was immensely appreciated!

We learn that in the EU system this looks like being dealt with quickly and should be adopted very soon.

Request of advice post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors: questionnaire

DG Mare sent to ACs on Friday 12th January 2018 a document called "Request of advice on post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors" from the Director General Joao Aguiar Machado. It's attached **J.**

After consulting the chair and vice chair, we sent this to ExCom for comment. DG Mare is seeking input from the Advisory Councils on future funding for the fisheries and maritime sectors after 2020. The questions contained within the Commission's letter were put into a questionnaire with space for answers. The deadline to the Commission is Monday 5th February. If any General Assembly members have comments please contact Ewa Milewska em@bsac.dk by Friday 26th January 2018. She will compile the input received.

Improving and facilitating assessment of the implementation of the landing obligation: questionnaire

The following e mail was sent to ACs on Monday 15th January 2018 from DG Mare:

“Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

To improve reporting and facilitate the assessment of the implementation of the landing obligation, the Commission prepared a questionnaire which will significantly facilitate the drafting of Commission report.

We would be grateful if you could update the information submitted last year, whenever appropriate, and additionally reply to the following two questions:

1. *How is the effective control and enforcement of the landing obligation at sea and the accurate documentation of all catches, including quantities discarded, ensured?*

2. *How many suspected and confirmed infringements, related to the landing obligation, have been detected at sea and at landing/marketing? In cases of confirmed infringements please indicate the circumstances of the offence and the sanctions applied, including penalty points.*

The questionnaire to Member States and producer organisations is attached. **./.**

To allow us time to analyse and collate the information and draft the final report on time, we would appreciate receiving your contribution by 15 February 2018.

Thank you very much for your co-operation.”

DG Mare has clarified that the questionnaire is addressed to the Member States, but it could be used by the AC. There is no specific questionnaire for the AC. ExCom members have been consulted. If any General Assembly members (not on ExCom) have comments please contact Ewa Milewska em@bsac.dk by Friday 9th February 2017. She will compile any input received.

Long distance AC has a Job advertisement for recruiting a LDAC scientific officer and FARFISH project coordinator (attached together with the specifications in EN-FR-ES)

The deadline for applying is 12 February 2018 at noon CET.

The ad can be downloaded on the LDAC website:

<http://ldac.chil.me/post/job-ad-ldac-project-officer-farfish-187088>

BALTFISH/Member States

After the BALTFISH-BSAC workshop on 29th January 2018 on recreational fisheries, we understand that BALTFISH is holding in Copenhagen a meeting to deal with salmon. It will continue work on the draft proposal for the Baltic salmon management plan.

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

EP Plenary Session on 16th January 2018: Vote on the conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures:

Results: 399 votes in favour, 189 against and 86 abstentions. The proposal is sent back to the Commission for inter-institutional negotiations.

New EU rules on how, where and when fish can be caught, were voted on Tuesday. MEPs inserted an amendment to ban the use of pulsed electric current for fishing.

The new law - updating and combining more than 30 regulations - would provide for common measures on fishing gear and methods, the minimum size of fish that may be caught and stopping or restricting fishing in certain areas or during certain periods. It also allows for tailor-made measures to be adapted to the regional needs of each sea basin.

An amendment calling for a total ban on the use of electric current for fishing (e.g. to drive fish up out of the seabed and into the net) was passed by 402 votes to 232, with 40 abstentions.

EU-wide prohibitions

The EU rules, designed progressively to reduce juvenile catches, would, *inter alia*:

- prohibit some fishing gear and methods,
- impose general restrictions on the use of towed gear and static nets (list fish and shellfish species for which fishing is banned)

- restrict catches of marine mammals, seabirds and marine reptiles, including special provisions to protect sensitive habitats, and
- ban practices such as “high-grading” (discarding low-priced fish even though they should legally be landed) in order to reduce discarding.

Regional measures

Regional measures would cover inter alia minimum conservation reference sizes, and closed or restricted areas. Member states and the Commission would have 18 months after the entry into force of the regulation to adopt regional rules on mesh sizes.

However, it would be possible to deviate from these regional rules, *via* a regional fisheries multiannual plan or, in the absence of such a plan, via a decision by the EU Commission. Member states could submit joint recommendations to this end, and MEPs ask them to “base their recommendations on the best available scientific advice”.

Quote

Rapporteur Gabriel Mato (EPP, ES), said: “The current state of standards is impractical, complex and rigid, so there is a need to revise the technical measures. Everyone agreed we needed simplification. We shouldn’t reinvent the rules, but rather make them clearer and more practical to implement for fishermen and others, with regionalisation and results-based programming which is helpful for the fishermen, and national and local authorities being able to take decisions in line with the broad framework.”

Next steps

Parliament authorised Fisheries Committee MEPs to start talks with the Council on the final wording of the legislation.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180112IPR91630/new-fisheries-rules-add-a-ban-on-electric-pulse-fishing-say-meps>

What did the Green MEPs say about the vote on the Conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems?

They reported in a short statement that while Green MEPs backed the successful attempt to include a ban on pulse fishing, the Greens voted against the report from the Fisheries Committee. According to them, it fails to establish common objectives at EU level. For the Greens, this report, authored by a Spanish conservative MEP completely undermines and defeats the purpose of a common fisheries policy. The new rules mean regional groups of member states will have to make up their own objectives. In practice, fishers in the North Sea will end up working under different conditions than those in the Atlantic or the Mediterranean. Not only will this system create anarchy, they say, it provides no incentives to improve fishing techniques and could result in massive illegal discarding. They call on the Commission to simply drop the proposal, which in their view is a major step backwards from the significant advances made in the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy a few years ago.

Contact Michael Earl – Advisor on Fisheries michael.earl@ep.europa.eu

The European Parliament Fisheries Committee meetings 24th and 25th January 2018

Day one — hello to the Bulgarian Presidency - technical measures referred to again

A few words from this very first meeting of the year, opened by the chairman Alain Cadec. Then, as usual, at the start of every six months, was an invitation to the new president of EU fisheries Council meetings: this time the Bulgarian minister. After his opening words about building partnerships, transparency, democratic monitoring, to lead towards a stronger and stable EU, he went on to highlight some important fisheries issues. One of the main priorities was to make real progress on the **technical measures dossier**: a very important dossier. The process has reached an important stage and it’s going to be important to work hard, but also to avoid over hasty decisions. Another issue: the **multiannual management plans** which are a pillar of fisheries management. He referred to the first modification of the Baltic management plan which was now being dealt with and it will be test to see if these management plans are adaptable. **On fisheries control**, they were expecting a proposal from the Commission and to have an exchange of views on it at the June Fisheries Council. The EU must continue to have an ambitious approach to fisheries management – including the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

There were several interventions from MEPs on the **technical measures**. Rapporteur Gabriel Mato highlighted fundamental issues here: cooperation at inter-institutional level, regionalisation (without losing sight of control) and the fact that the technical measures dossier was now being dealt with between Council and the Parliament. He wasn't happy with the way in which the Commission had worked on this issue (re: Article 4 of the proposal on the targets and the dispute between the Commission and Parliament). Now it's time to negotiate and he's optimistic. He added that there's been a serious discussion on pulse fishing - but this is not the only issue! Other MEPs also raised the issue of pulse fishing (as opposed to beam trawls) - but there's a wish to get an agreement on the technical measures beyond pulse fishing! Also on this agenda was recreational fisheries (the report by the Fisheries Committee) and on 25th January 2018 an event on the subject. (See below).

Fisheries Committee PECH Newsletter: Trawler – January 2018 prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries

You'll find it here eventually:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pech/newsletters.html#menuzone>

This January issue also reports on the January Plenary vote on the technical measures dossier. See here:

New fisheries rules: add a ban on electric pulse fishing

New EU rules on how, where and when fish can be caught, were voted on 16 January 2018. MEPs inserted an amendment to ban the use of pulsed electric current for fishing. The new law - updating and combining more than 30 regulations - would provide for common measures on fishing gear and methods, the minimum size of fish that may be caught and stopping or restricting fishing in certain areas or during certain periods. It also allows for tailor-made measures to be adapted to the regional needs of each sea basin. Regional measures would cover inter alia minimum conservation reference sizes, and closed or restricted areas. Member states and the Commission would have 18 months after the entry into force of the regulation to adopt regional rules on mesh sizes. However, it would be possible to deviate from these regional rules, *via* a regional fisheries multiannual plan or, in the absence of such a plan, via a decision by the EU Commission. Member states could submit joint recommendations to this end, and MEPs ask them to "base their recommendations on the best available scientific advice".

Commission Regulation 2018/47 on the use of alternative T90 trawls in the Baltic Sea Fisheries

Is published:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.007.01.0021.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:007:TOC

The website of the Swedish Fishermen's Federation informs that it does not enter into force until 1st February 2018.

The European Commission on Plastic Waste: a European strategy to protect the planet, defend our citizens and empower our industries

Press release, 16 January 2018

The first-ever Europe-wide strategy on plastics, adopted today, is a part of the transition towards a more circular economy. It will protect the environment from plastic pollution whilst fostering growth and innovation, turning a challenge into a positive agenda for the Future of Europe. There is a **strong business case** for transforming the way products are designed, produced, used, and recycled in the EU and by taking the lead in this transition, we will create new **investment opportunities and jobs**. Under the new plans, **all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030**, the consumption of **single-use plastics will be reduced** and the intentional use of **microplastics will be restricted**.

First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, responsible for sustainable development, said: "*If we don't change the way we produce and use plastics, there will be more plastics than fish in our oceans by 2050. We must stop plastics getting into our water, our food, and even our bodies. The only long-term solution is to reduce*

plastic waste by recycling and reusing more. This is a challenge that citizens, industry and governments must tackle together. With the EU Plastics Strategy we are also driving a new and more circular business model. We need to invest in innovative new technologies that keep our citizens and our environment safe whilst keeping our industry competitive."

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-5_en.htm

[#PlasticsStrategy](#)

The Commission is holding a Public Consultation about plastics

This is to provide input, opinions and data for preparation of follow-up to the Plastics Strategy in relation to marine litter, particularly from single use plastics and fishing gear.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/reducing-marine-litter-action-single-use-plastics-and-fishing-gear_en

It's running from 15th December to 12th February 2018

EU Maritime and Fish – preparing for holidays?

Perhaps it's still a bit early ... but have you already started thinking about your Summer holidays?

The extraordinary beauty, cultural wealth and great diversity of EU's coastal areas have made them the preferred destination for many holidaymakers.

Coastal & maritime tourism is one of the sectors with the highest potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive [#BlueGrowth](#). Learn more:

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffa.../policy/coastal_tourism_en

EU Maritime and Fish Marine scientists steer trawlers away from sensitive sea floors

18 January 2018

Bottom trawling, where fishing boats drag a heavy net along the seafloor, can devastate marine habitats and cause fish stocks to plummet, but scientists have developed new eco-friendly techniques to support the sustainability of an industry employing tens of thousands of people. Despite this, according to Professor Adriaan D. Rijnsdorp from Wageningen Marine Research in the Netherlands, fishermen with the right equipment operating in low-sensitivity areas could actually trawl the seabed sustainably. Prof. Rijnsdorp coordinated the EU-funded BENTHIS project, which analysed the impact of current bottom trawling approaches on seafloor ecosystems. As part of this work, which finished at the end of 2017, the BENTHIS team created habitat sensitivity maps in order to direct fishing towards the least vulnerable areas and prevent them trawling in areas essential to the future productivity of fisheries.

https://horizon-magazine.eu/article/marine-scientists-steer-trawlers-away-sensitive-sea-floors_en.html

Other meetings – non EU - not exhaustive

Theme day on Denmark's marine strategy Thursday 26th October 2017

Back in October 2017, the Danish Society for Marine Biology organized a so-called them day on the EU Marine Strategy and the work Denmark is doing to deal with it. So a Danish focus to this meeting. The aim behind the day was to give everyone with an interest, an involvement or a wish to learn more the chance to get inside the Marine Strategy and its many nooks and crannies. The presentations made by ministry representatives and experts, as well as WWF experts in Denmark, have been made available and can be found here (all in Danish):

http://www.dsymb.dk/uf/40000_49999/43034/120b25434ebe8a4cbd2d5b4a74c735ff.pdf

Can the Brits have all their fish and eat it after Brexit?

Meeting on Brexit in Danish Parliament Wednesday 16th January 2018

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It's not Baltic, but it's important to fisheries and international relations.

The Danish Parliamentary Committee on fisheries hosted a very well attended hearing on Brexit. Find here a short report from the meeting.

Attached ./.

ICES annual meetings with the ACs and stakeholders 18th and 19th January 2018

The annual meeting between ICES and the Advisory Councils, as well as the broader meeting between ICES and observers took place. Both meetings were well attended, participants really engaged in the substance and items on the agenda. For many, this was seen as the best meeting yet to take place with ICES. Most ACs were very positive about continuing the separate pre-meeting with ICES: all they need to do is come up with a new name: any suggestions?

Find a report here: Attached ./.

And right now at ICES: Eastern cod is under the spotlight: science limited or data limited?

Michael Andersen reports that at the WKIDEBCA – Workshop on Evaluation of Input Data to Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment – taking place in the offices of ICES from January 23rd to 25th, some 25 scientists from the Baltic are investigating how scientific advice for the Eastern cod stock can be improved. The result of the meeting will be an advice on whether to prepare a benchmark workshop in 2019 to agree on a new method – or whether ICES should continue to give advice based on the principles for data limited stocks. It is obvious – and agreed by all the scientists – that it is not the lack of data that is the problem, but the interpretation of what this data shows and how to use it in a meaningful way. The BSAC is attending with two observers, Lindsay Keenan from the Fisheries Secretariat and Michael Andersen, chair of the Demersal WG. They will report to ExCom on January 30th.

Coming ICES meetings Baltic relevant

WKPELA: Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks, 12–16 February 2018 at ICES,

Herring in subdivisions 20–21, spring spawners, Herring in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d, autumn spawners, Herring in divisions 7.a South of 52°30'N, 7.g–h and 7.j–k, Anchovy in 9.a (Atlantic Iberian Waters)

WGBAST: Assessment Working Group on Baltic Sea salmon and trout: 20th-28th March 2018

WGBFAS: Baltic fisheries assessment working group: 6th -13th April 2018

Salmon Review and Advice Drafting Group: 23rd-26th April 2018

Baltic Sea Advice Drafting Group: 8th -11th May 2018

Baltic Sea Advice release date: 31st May 2018.

Check ICES meetings calendar

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/meeting-calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

Eurofish Governing Council 1st and 2nd February 2018

Eurofish, which supports trade, processing and aquaculture activities in many European countries, is holding its Annual Governing Council. The BSAC is always invited, and the Secretariat will attend the first day to hear about the year that has gone and the work programme for the year ahead.

Low Impact Fisheries LIFE: invitation to a workshop at Thorupstrand, Denmark 6th-7th February 2018

LIFE sent an invitation to the BSAC Secretariat to a LIFE Best Practice Exchange Workshop devoted to the Thorupstrand community & added value for small-scale fishers (SSFs) from the markets. It will take place in Thorupstrand, Denmark, on 6-7 February 2017. Secretariat will take part and report back. Find agenda here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/LIFE-Best-Practice-Exchange-Workshop>

Final seminar of the e-FishNet Project in Madrid the 25th June 2018

This project is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union. During this seminar main conclusions of the project will be presented, as well as other interesting lectures related with consumption trends, the Fish Retailer Sector in Europe and its training, among other issues will take place.

e- FishNet is a Project focused on Fishmonger's training. With a Consortium of 9 Organizations coming from 6 different countries its aim is to analyze the current state of fishmonger's training in Europe and work on solutions for this collective such as an e-learning Platform. FEDEPESCA is the coordinator, and the partners are Mátis (Iceland), Ankara University, Billingsgate Seafood School (United Kingdom), ANCIPA representing Portuguese Traders and Food Industries, EATIP (European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform), Madrid Employment Agency, ARIEMA and Mercamadrid.

Find out more here:

<http://e-fishnet.org/index.php/en/>

Other information/reading

Rasmus Nielsen DTU Aqua on Atlantis

Rasmus Nielsen has contacted the BSAC Secretariat about the Atlantis project. We're in dialogue with Rasmus about when to come and present this to the BSAC.

Here is an abstract

Abstract Baltic Atlantis Model Results

The newly developed Baltic spatially-explicit end-to-end Atlantis ecosystem model is in its phase of implementation. We will present preliminary results from an updated model with new and existing, significant knowledge on fish recruitment, growth, consumption processes and species interactions. The RCO-SCOBI model (Rossby Center Ocean Model – Swedish Coastal and Ocean Biogeochemical Model) will be linked with the Atlantis model which will be used to provide physical and bio-geo-chemical and hydrodynamic forcing. This will replace the physical forcing of Atlantis from the HBM-ERGOM model (Hiromb-BOOS model coupled to the Ecological Regional Ocean Model) developed so far. Furthermore, we will integrate socio-economic parameters, dynamics and fisheries (technical) interactions in the holistic ecosystem and fisheries system model instead of using the current constant fishing mortality rates. This integrates dynamics on catch, effort, revenue, costs, fish prices, profit, fleet capacity and exit-entry dynamics, as well as fuel consumption according to area, time, and Baltic fishing fleets. Accordingly, this involves estimation of economic and energetic processes and efficiency, e.g. greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint minimization potentials. The model application will evaluate impacts of eutrophication and climate forcing scenarios on biological interactions, resource availability and fisheries bio-economic dynamics with a high resolution according to space, time and fleet components on a long term strategic basis.

Link to Atlantis Model Overview Cartoon produced by DTU Aqua (Sieme Bossier)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdpVUZuf0TM&t=1s>

Low Impact Fishers of Europe, 10 January 2018

An important step against pulse fishing today in the European Parliament: a number of MEPs, industry representatives, scientists, NGOs and stakeholders gathered during an event organised by [BLOOM](#) to denounce the environmental and socio-economic risks stemming from the use of such a damaging gear. Derogations to the latter should be voted by the plenary of the European Parliament on the 16th of January, opening a Pandora vase that would pave the way to the desertification of EU waters through the spread of pulse and potentially other destructive practices.

<https://www.bloomassociation.org/stop-peche-electrique/stop-electric-pulse-fishing/>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/fishermen-offshore-wind-farms-struggle-to-share-sea/>

Polish fishers lead the way on ghost nets (from LIFE, 16 January 2018)

Fishing gears lost at sea and their impact on the marine environment are subject to numerous research and actions globally. One of the most successful projects in this respect, "**Clean Baltic**", is being finalized along **Poland's coastal waters** including the Lagoons, with the involvement of over 500 small-scale fishers. The fishers retrieved a total of just under 147 tons of waste. Most retrieved fishing gears were gillnets, but trawls,

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trap nets, lines and pots were also fished out. The retrieved nets contained fish and other marine organisms, such as birds and mussels and even one dead grey seal. The project **was not confined to fishing gears only** and fishers took out many other objects, such as buoys, Styrofoam, boxes, lines, tires, remains of steel elements, as well as smaller waste such as gloves and plastic bags.

<http://lifeplatform.eu/polish-fishers-lead-way-ghost-nets/>

Presentations from the MareFrame final meeting are now available

MareFrame: Increased use of Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions

The MareFrame final meeting took place December 12-14. The meeting was a huge success as over 130 stakeholders of all types attended the three-day event. Most of the presentations are now available (link below) on the MareFrame web page. Additionally, large portion of December 13, the Policy Day, was broadcasted live via Facebook and is available for viewing.

The MareFrame consortium would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting and for their valuable contribution

<http://mareframe-fp7.org/presentations-from-the-mareframe-final-meeting-are-now-available/>

FARNET on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and local perspectives beyond 2020

The so-called CLLD programme was praised at DG MARE's EMMF Stakeholder Conference in October for being a successful tool in bringing about greater collaboration between fisheries and local communities. During a workshop on the EMFF and local perspectives, four panelists shared their practical experience on implementing CLLD on the ground. They demonstrated how it has helped boost the image, competitiveness and sales of local fisheries products all while developing local skills, capacity and entrepreneurship in their local communities in Spain, Denmark and Greece.

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/news-events/news/emff-and-local-perspectives-beyond-2020_en

FARNET also encourages readers to look at some of the CLLD examples on the [Good Practice page of the FARNET website](#). The following examples have recently been posted:

Methodology: [Blue Economy Awards for FLAG projects](#) (Galicia Regional MA, Spain)

A project competition and awards ceremony were organised by the regional administration to boost communication around CLLD and increase local awareness of the FLAGs' work in Galicia's coastal areas.

Short story: [Sea fishing and sightseeing offered by a Baltic fisherman](#) (North Kurzeme FLAG, Latvia)

Ģirts Purviņš is the owner of GP Trading Ltd. and an experienced freshwater and saltwater fisherman. With the support of his local FLAG he has diversified his activities and the area's tourism offer.

Project: [Trialling more selective lobster pots](#) (Holderness FLAG, UK)

FLAG cooperates with local fisheries management body to encourage uptake by fishermen to trial lobster pots with specially designed escape gaps, providing both environmental and commercial benefits.

Project: [Mobilising the Baltic young through LAG-FLAG cooperation](#) (Virumaa FLAG, Estonia, and South Finland / Etelä-Suomi FLAG, Finland)

Two FLAGs and two LAGs from Finland and Estonia signed a cooperation agreement to promote youth exchanges around fisheries cultural heritage in order to revitalise the traditional links between Estonian coastal villages and Finnish coastal areas.

www.farnet.eu

Marine Stewardship Council adopts new requirement for the assessment of fisheries, 19 January, 2018

London, UK - The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) will further strengthen its ability to catalyse improvements in global fisheries by requiring all fishing activities on a target stock on a single trip to be certified against the MSC's Standard for sustainable fishing.

The decision was reached at the MSC Board meeting in London this week. It followed an extensive, public consultation involving more than 50 interest groups from NGOs to the fishing and commercial sectors, and concluded with a review in December 2017 by the MSC's Technical Advisory Board. The Technical Advisory Board comprises 15 experts in the field of marine science and supply chains, and it provided its formal recommendation to the MSC Board based on a scientific and technical analysis of the issue and the information and feedback provided in consultation responses.

<https://www.msc.org/newsroom/news/msc-adopts-new-requirement-for-the-assessment-of-fisheries>

The Fisheries Secretariat on the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies Published on December 21, 2017

Trade treaties with teeth are in practice often a major hurdle to environmental protection measures. Trade hawks routinely claim that this need not be so. Sometimes they say that governments are unnecessarily cautious. Another stock reply is that the solution is international environmental rules, giving everyone a level playing field. Easier said than done, as anyone who has ever worked on an international environmental agreement knows. But miracles do happen. At the same time as EU fisheries ministers were struggling to find catch levels that would allow the EU to achieve its goals and international commitments of healthy fish stocks by 2020, the WTO ministerial conference met to agree to stop subsidising fishing overcapacity.

<https://www.fishsec.org/2017/12/21/wto-agreement-on-fisheries-subsidies/>

The Fisheries Secretariat on Red flags for EU fishing quotas Published on December 21, 2017

Ahead of the December Council meeting at which quotas for the Northeast Atlantic and North Sea are set, The Fisheries Secretariat along with Seas At Risk, The Pew Charitable Trusts, ClientEarth and Oceana provided a briefing to Ministers with recommendations for 16 stocks being in environmentally poor condition and having been mismanaged. Ministers set quotas above scientific advice for 14 of these 16 stocks

<https://www.fishsec.org/2017/12/21/red-flags-for-eu-fishing-quotas/>

Coalition Clean Baltic on Public Environmental Assessment of the Nord Stream 2:

16 January 2018

According to CCB, the project should not be given permission for implementation due to numerous deficiencies and noncompliance with the law. On Monday, 15 January 2018, the results and conclusions of the Public Environmental Assessment, an independent expert review of the project documentation, including the Environmental Impact Assessment and mitigation measures, were presented at the press-conference in St. Petersburg, Russia. Public Environmental Assessment was initiated and performed in accordance with Russian Federal Law on Environmental Expertise and on the basis of respective national environmental legislation.

The Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project, that was submitted for obtaining respective permission from the environmental authorities and consequent construction permit, should not be accepted for implementation, because of

- inconsistency of provided documentation with national and international legal requirements in the field of environment protection
- unacceptable level of potential negative environmental, as well as connected social and economic impacts

The Expert Group also concluded that the project design cannot be simply amended or altered without significant changes in proposed technological solutions for pipe-laying within its offshore and landfall parts.

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<http://www.ccb.se/2018/01/public-environmental-assessment-of-the-nord-stream-2-the-project-should-not-be-given-permission-for-implementation-due-to-numerous-deficiencies-and-noncompliance-with-the-law/>

CCB is also looking for a communications officer, 18th January 2018

Lots of abilities and skills wanted. Deadline 9th February 2018

<http://www.ccb.se/2018/01/ccb-looking-for-communications-officer/>

WWF on the vote on the EP Plenary regulation on the technical measures

17 January 2018

WWF has strongly condemned the vote by the European Parliament, which failed to reduce the environmental impacts of fishing activities in a regulation that was intended to conserve the marine environment. The text adopted merges 33 different pieces of existing legislation that regulate how, when and where fishers must conduct their fishing activities. Members of the European Parliament have turned their backs on European nature legislation and voted to lower existing environmental standards.

Juvenile fish are another victim of the new fishing rules, said WWF. MEPs voted against concrete targets and deadlines to protect juveniles which are caught in fishing nets before they are able to reproduce, with negative impacts for the future of both fish stocks and consequently the livelihoods of European fishing communities.

The only positive outcome, in WWF's eyes, was that the European Parliament voted against removing the general ban on electro-fishing nets. With the rules adopted, pulse trawling is considered a prohibited gear that can only be used in the North Sea.

http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?320831/MEPs-miss-crucial-opportunity-to-protect-our-marine-environment-and-juvenile-fish

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/01/17/wwf-echoes-disappointment-at-eu-technical-measures-vote/>

A Joint NGO letter to MEPs on the technical measures dossier

Entitled "Nature being undermined by Regulation that should sustainably manage fishing activities" – Plenary vote on 16th January 2018

http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/Letter_to_MEPs_on_TCM_-_Final_version.pdf

The Eurofish Magazine December 2017

This edition celebrated twenty years of being in the business of reporting and writing about fisheries, processing, trade, processing: produced an anniversary issue

In there is an article on climate changes and the effects on the oceans: Vigo International Congress on Climate Change and Fisheries. It includes a reference to participant Poul Degnbol

Also an article on the EUfishmeal bi-annual conference Ireland September 20+17

And a two-page feature on Latvia: Concerted efforts to find new markets – including what Inarijs Voits has been up to and plans

Finally a spread on Russia - including strategy it's developing to boost the fisheries sector

An assessment of potential consequences of Brexit for the ports and communities of Skagen, Hirtshals, Hanstholm and Thyborøn.

This is a report on the socio-economic consequences of Brexit:

It was referred to at the meeting, it was released on 16th January 2018

It gives an assessment of the potential consequences of Brexit for the ports and communities of Skagen, Hirtshals, Hanstholm and Thyborøn.

[http://vbn.aau.dk/da/publications/socioeconomic-consequences-of-brexit-for-four-larger-fishing-ports-and-their-communities\(6264b744-d3f2-42fd-8ad2-e5dd2a96771a\).html](http://vbn.aau.dk/da/publications/socioeconomic-consequences-of-brexit-for-four-larger-fishing-ports-and-their-communities(6264b744-d3f2-42fd-8ad2-e5dd2a96771a).html)

And more on Brexit and its possible consequences from BSAC members Marine Ingredients and the Danish Pelagic Producer Organisation (in Danish):

<http://www.maring.org/brexit2/>

BSAC members German Cutter-and Coastal-Fishermen's Association and Union of German Cutter Fishery report on the year to come for fisheries in their fishing waters of the North Sea and the Baltic

Press release from 5th January 2018

"Fisheries in the North and Baltic Seas with good results in 2017 - Mixed perspectives for 2018"

For the Baltic they state that in 2017, Baltic fishermen had to cut their cod quota by 50%. State aid for crisis management was able to prevent large-scale operational difficulties. Good prices and direct marketing were helpful in this difficult situation. Help is also planned for 2018. However, scientific forecasts already predict significantly better cod catches already in 2019, when the stock is expected to exceed the sustainability threshold. The herring fishery in the Baltic Sea in 2017 was mixed. Trawling produced good results, but catches by net fishermen fell short of expectations. For 2018, the herring quota in the western Baltic has been reduced by 39%. And here too, state aid for planned this year to help the sector.

Danish fishermen Producer Organisation will hold its annual general assembly on 4th May 2018 in Vejle

Hélène Clare, DG Mare Director for Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and outermost regions has accepted their invitation to take part.

An article on liver worms in Baltic cod: *Contracaecum osculatum* and other anisakid nematodes in grey seals and cod in the Baltic Sea: molecular and ecological links

This paper discusses the impact of parasitism on the cod stock in the Baltic and the increasing risk for consumer health, and lists possible solutions for control. It was published in the journal of helminthology (Cambridge University Press):

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-helminthology>.

Attached ./ (Thank you Alex Olsen)

Baltic Sea 2020 has published a vision for rescuing cod in the Baltic

19th January 2018

It's in Swedish. Baltic Sea 2020 informs that already in 2017 it started the initiative to save the Baltic cod. Their vision of the Baltic Sea is to stop bottom trawling, cod fishing must shift focus towards coastal areas, sustainable fishing methods must be used and the practice of caring for the fish must be applied in the Baltic. Read it here:

www.balticsea2020.org

And here:

<http://balticsea2020.org/bibliotek/31-fiske/670-balticsea2020-s-vision-for-att-radda-torsken-i-ostersjon>

European Anglers Alliance reports on an event on Recreational Fisheries on 25th January 2018

State of play of recreational fisheries in the EU: The anglers' point of view & the importance of recognition of recreational fisheries at the EU level" will take place on the 25th of January in Brussels. Read more on the EAA's website:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/12170/the-next-event-of-the-recfishing-forum-will-look-into-the-state-of-play-of-recreational-fisheries-in-the-eu.html>

And find the agenda here:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/european-parliament-forum/ep-recfishing-forum-events/>

What happens when the ecosystem gets into problems: This is about the problems facing small fish species in the North Sea – but it could also be relevant for the Baltic

29th December 2017

Small fish such as sandeel, norway pout and herring are important in terms of catches in the North Seas. Since the 1990's these fish have begun to weigh less, not grow so long and produce fewer offspring. Senior researcher Mikael van Deurs at DTU Aqua has been working on this and is one of the authors of a new report. Peter GrønkJær, at the Department of aquatic biology at the University of Aarhus is also involved in this work. They inform that these small fish play a key role in the ecosystem of the North Sea. Since the early nineties, fishermen are taking only about half of what used to be caught. The study that they've been carrying out concludes that the reason for the decline in the stocks is linked to changes in sea currents as well as climate changes in the North Sea, which have led to a reduction in the amount of plankton available to the fish. Not all the links are crystal clear, they say, but fish such as herring, sandeel and sprat depend on plankton as food, so it's to be predicted that when the amount of zooplankton falls (such as *Calanus finmarchicus*), it will affect the numbers of these small fish. We can't attach the article, but follow up at:

www.videnskab.dk

And more on the effects of climate change and its effects: climate change a threat to several species – new report proposes marine areas which should be protected

16th January 2018

This report, in Swedish, produced by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management shows that species such as mussels, seaweed and cod can be severely affected by climate change.

<https://www.havochvatten.se/artikel?artikel=2371650>

Fishing News International (Intrafish)

The January issue: (lots of good articles, but to focus on things “Baltic”):

- **New report exposes “illegal” discarding in the Baltic Sea:** this is referring to article from the campaigning group Our Fish which came out in December. The article here summarises their report, refers to certain sections of it and quotes some of it. It doesn't go on to comment on it.
- **Deutsche See: What makes the German giant tick?** A big two page article on Germany's biggest fresh and chilled fish and seafood company (part of Unilever). It gives the history, development and how its production plant (two units) in Bremerhaven operate. They call themselves a “Fischmanufaktur” – not a processor, with emphasis on quality, hand-cut products

HELCOM meetings and news

Just a few of the HELCOM meetings that could be of interest/relevance

Check out www.helcom.fi

First workshop of correspondence group for fisheries data (CG FISHDATA 1-2018), Copenhagen, Denmark, 27 February 2018

The aim of the workshop is to exchange information needed to draft a roadmap and to further consider the inventory document and fisheries data needs of Marine Strategy Framework Directive, including HELCOM indicator data needs. The Correspondence Group will submit the outcome for consideration to the next meeting of its FISH 8 Working Group, to be held in May 2018. Contact HELCOM

HOLAS II Workshop on the Baltic Sea Pressure and Impact Indices (HOLAS II BSPI/BSII WS 1-2018)

Contact HELCOM

The fifth Meeting of the Continuation of the Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management

This will be held at the premises of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Gullbergs Strandgata 15), Gothenburg, Sweden, on 14-16 February 2018.

The HELCOM Workshop to support the HOLAS II Economic and Social Analyses (HOLAS II ESA WS 3-2018) 13-14 March 2018 at the premises of HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6B, 00160 Helsinki, Finland).

The HOLAS II Workshop on integrated hazardous substances assessment (HOLAS II HZ WS 1-2018) will be held on **21 March 2018** at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat

Fishermen's health and safety

Interreg Baltic Sea Region: the ChemSAR project

ChemSAR project creates uniform operational plans and standard operational procedures for the Baltic Sea Region to be used in rescue operations in maritime HNS incidents. Currently, no such common procedures exist. The project has now reached its halfway. To fulfill our goal for common standardized guidelines, a chemical databank, and e-learning material, we need wide expert contribution within the region.

The aim of the ChemSAR Midterm Conference is to offer a forum for specialists to participate in the development process of the ChemSAR outcomes. **You are welcome to join the ChemSAR Midterm Conference and contribute to the further development of the project's outputs.** The programme will be published soon, but the registration is already open at

<https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=4433>

More information on the project can be found on the project's website

<https://blogit.utu.fi/chemsar/>