

Nr 12 Wednesday 20th December 2017

Dear members,

For the next news in January, please let us hear from you by 22nd January.

BSAC news and meetings and other ACs

POST ExCom meeting and workshop on selectivity 7th November 2017 Gdynia:

The ExCom meeting and workshop on selectivity took place in Gdynia on 7th November and the report is now finalized. Please find it on the BSAC website, together with the presentations:

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

At the meeting there were some agreed outputs to be prepared and submitted to ExCom for approval:

1. Selectivity in the demersal fishery: technical solutions to current problems?

At the workshop, the Demersal WG chair reiterated the call from the BSAC for a reduction of the mesh size in the demersal fishery from 120 mm to 110 mm. He proposed to forward a letter to the ExCom and approve it by a written procedure and then send it to BALTFISH. With help from the Secretariat, the Demersal WG chair drafted a letter which was approved by the Ex Com in written procedure and sent to DGMare. See here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/Repeat-call-for-reduction-in-mesh-size>

2. The HELCOM questionnaire on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques

A questionnaire from HELCOM was sent to all the meeting participants (at the workshop on Selectivity 7th November 2017) and to all Ex Com members for comments. It included comments from Krzysztof Stanuch, National Chamber of Fish Producers. No other ExCom members have replied. The final version was sent to Katarzyna Kaminska, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation and who is coordinating this. Please contact Secretariat if you want this.

3. Draft letter to DG Mare on EU-Russia

At the ExCom meeting on 7th November 2017, a fisheries representative from Poland proposed to ask the European Commission to provide information on the Russian quota allocations for 2018. The ExCom decided to send a letter to the European Commission requesting this information on quota allocations. The Secretariat and Krzysztof Stanuch have drafted a letter which was approved by the Ex Com by written procedure and sent to DG Mare. **It is attached ./.**

Chair meets the vice chair and Secretariat: Tuesday 19th December 2017

The BSAC chair met with the new vice and the Secretariat in Copenhagen to discuss forthcoming work and business for the BSAC. This was a productive meeting with fruitful discussions about the year ahead and planning the programme for 2018-2019. The Secretariat will send to ExCom early in 2018 a draft work programme and draft estimated budget for consideration and comment in advance of the Ex Com meeting on Tuesday 30th January 2018. Moreover, Sonja Feldthaus from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representing the BALTFISH Presidency came at the start and discussed with the chair and vice chair the details and planning of the Joint BALTFISH-BSAC Workshop on recreational cod fishery 29th January 2018. It was a very fruitful meeting, with a useful exchange of information. The dialogue will continue in early January 2018.

The new BSAC year and requests for payment: keep them coming!

On 1st December 2017, the Secretariat sent out invoices to the BSAC members and the Baltic Member States requesting membership payment and Member State contribution for the year 2018 -2019. We want to thank those members very much who have already paid and we remind the rest of you to kindly pay your contribution by Tuesday 8th January 2018.

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

The invitation and draft agenda are on the website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Joint-BALTFISH-BSAC-workshop-on-recreational-fishes>
Please register by Monday 15th January 2018

Executive Committee meeting Tuesday 30th January 2018

Please find the invitation and draft agenda:

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

Please register by Monday 15th January 2018

The Long Distance Advisory Council has made an information video

The LDAC approved the final version of its institutional video of the LDAC. With a relatively small budget they have managed to create an animated video. The video is aimed to provide a clear message to the grassroots/public in general of what they do in their daily work. They see it as part of their Communications Strategy to assist members and Secretariat to convey key messages in external fora and meetings to make general presentations in a professional and harmonised manner. It was officially launched at the last LDAC Executive Committee held in Madrid on 23 November, and a press release has been issued targeted at the Spanish media.

The video is accessible via the LDAC website/Twitter here:

<http://ldac.ldac.eu/post/ldac-video-english-version-174376>

The South Western Waters AC has a job advert for an Executive Secretary

The deadline for applications is before 10th January 2018 (does that mean by?)

<http://www.cc-sud.eu/images/img-ccs/documents/offres-emploi/CCSud-FichePoste-ATH-2017-FR.pdf>

The North Western Waters AC has got a new deputy Executive Secretary

It's Sara VanDamme, who used to be Project Development and Communications Manager at the NWWAC.

Welcome to Natalia Walczak, European Transport Workers' Federation

Natalia has started a Political Assistant for Dockers and Fisheries, based at the ETWF in Brussels

She is working in the ETWF and will be following the work of the BSAC and be the contact, working together with Livia Spera, coordinating with the other staff in the ETWF. Welcome!

BALTFISH/Member States

Workshop on recreational fisheries Monday 29th January 2018

BALTFISH and the BSAC will organize a joint workshop on recreational fisheries on 29th January 2018 in Copenhagen. We are in the process of planning the workshop in more detail. We expect to have presentations from scientists and other relevant parties, combined with discussions on key issues.

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

Stakeholder Seminar on the Fisheries Control System 16th November from 9.00 to 16.30 Brussels

Staffan Larsson and Michel Andersen took part. [A report from the two participants is attached ./.](#)

The European Parliament Fisheries Committee Pêche November Trawler newsletter November 2017

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/133220/Trawler%20November.pdf>

The newsletter highlights that one of the agenda items was the opportunity to vote on the "Technical measures" file.

From the technical measures dossier, you can find the report, with all the amendments and details on the vote that took place in the Committee here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bREPORT%2bA8-2017-0381%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

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

Aveltorx 3, 6th floor | 1609 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 20128949 | www.bsac.dk

The plenary session vote on the technical measures dossier is expected to take place on Thursday 1st February 2018 (to be confirmed)

The Use of alternative T90 trawls in Baltic Sea fisheries

The deadline for the Parliament to object to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) authorising the use of alternative T90 trawls in Baltic Sea fisheries, by way of derogation from Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005 is 30th December 2017. Procedural file link here:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=&reference=2017/2949\(DEA\)](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=&reference=2017/2949(DEA))

The Baltic discard plan for salmon

The deadline for the Parliament to object to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) establishing a discard plan as regards salmon in the Baltic Sea is 21st January 2018.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=&reference=2017/2981\(DEA\)](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=&reference=2017/2981(DEA))

The Baltic discard plan for cod and plaice

The current plan expires 31.12.17. The Commission has just issued a Delegated Regulation laying down specifications for the implementation of the landing obligation as regards cod and plaice in Baltic Sea fisheries. It's on the Fisheries Committee procedural file site, but there are no dates or deadlines for Parliament to give comments.

The Parliament's Pêche Committee draft report on the state of play of recreational fisheries in the European Union

This was referred to in the last BSAC newsletter number 11 and the report is here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-615.424%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

EP next Fisheries Committee meetings are on:

Wednesday, 24 January, 14:30-18:30 and Thursday, 25 January, 9:00-12:30

No agendas are available yet

The EU website gives full details from the December Fisheries Council: EU ministers agree on fishing catch limits in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2018 13/12/2017

EU ministers reached an agreement on fishing opportunities for 2018 in the Atlantic, North Sea and Black Sea following negotiations at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 11 - 12 December. The negotiations were based on the Commission's proposal for Total Allowable Catches (TAC), presented by Commissioner Karmenu Vella. The agreement will bring 53 catch limits (TACs) to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) levels in 2018, 9 more than in 2017. In 2009, only 5 stocks had catches set at MSY. Commissioner Vella welcomed the outcome and said:

"We are now more than half-way to the 2020 deadline to ensure that all stocks are fished sustainably. With today's agreement two-thirds of fish in the Atlantic and the North Sea will be subject to sustainable catch limits next year. I would like to pay particular tribute to our fishermen, who year by year undertake considerable efforts. Each year we move closer to our objective of sustainable fisheries and this will bring substantial long term reward."

The website reports that as the size of some key fish stocks increases, so does the profitability of the fishing sector. It states that the agreement on fishing opportunities is worth over €5 billion, benefiting more than 50,000 fishermen.

It adds that for the first time at EU level, it was agreed to close eel fisheries for three months during their migration period. Member States also committed to additional actions to protect the eels throughout its

lifecycle and in all sea basins. These measures are crucial, both for the recovery of the stock and to safeguard the communities who depend on this fishery.

For sea bass, an improved package was agreed which should allow the stock to start recovering following years of decline. It recognises the responsibility of commercial and recreational fishermen alike.

The site clarifies that sustainable fisheries are at the core of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy which sets a legal obligation to ensure that by 2020 at the latest, all stocks are fished sustainably (MSY). Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) levels allow the fishing industry to take the highest amount of fish from the sea while keeping fish stocks healthy.

If you want more information:

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-ministers-agree-fishing-catch-limits-atlantic-and-north-sea-2018_en

Commission's top scientific advisers publish an opinion on Food from the Oceans

Press Release 30/11/2017

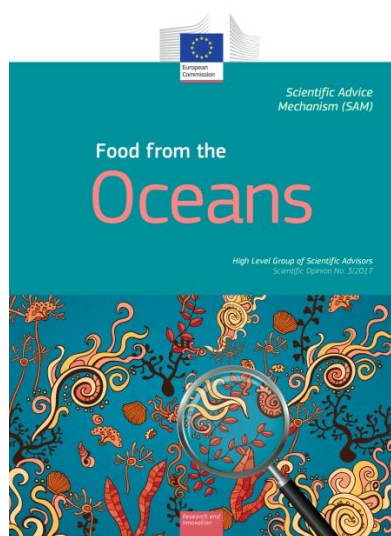
The High Level Group formulates policy recommendations to help meet the demands of a global population approaching 10 billion by 2050. Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, said: *"The growing global population can't be fed by agriculture alone. Luckily, there is vast potential in the ocean. This report will help in two ways. It points to how we can get more food from the ocean. And it indicates how to do that sustainably."*

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, added: *"This substantive opinion and comprehensive evidence review shows that the Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism is going from strength to strength. I am confident that the value of this opinion will be recognised not just by European policy makers, but also by national governments and all those who care about the future of our oceans."*

Spotlight on the recommendations: take into account producer and consumer needs for a balanced food production framework – expand consumption of species lower in the food chain (i.e. algae and shellfish) – consider fish farming in sustainable fisheries partnership agreements between the EU and southern partner countries.

President Juncker announced back in May 2017 that the Commission will set up the so called Scientific Advice Mechanism to contribute to the quality of EU legislation with scientific expertise. It has already presented valuable opinions in areas such as CO2 emissions from cars, cybersecurity and biotech.

It's called Food from the Oceans:



We are very pleased to inform you that the scientific opinion "Food from the Oceans" has now been published and submitted to the European Commission. This Scientific Opinion responds to a request from the European Commission formulated by Commissioner Karmenu Vella (Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) for scientific advice on how more food and biomass can be obtained from the oceans in a way that does not deprive future generations of their benefits.

The advice takes the form of five sets of recommendations. The first calls for mainstreaming a "food from the ocean" paradigm based on responsible culture and capture, into a broad food systems policy framework, as well as into other relevant EU and global systems-level policy agendas. Reflecting the fact that scientific evidence points to mariculture (marine aquaculture) as having the biggest potential to increase food from the ocean, the second set pertains to the development of mariculture globally. As far as Europe's part in this is concerned, this would require raising the strategic priority of mariculture

and bringing all available means to bear on facilitating its development – notably marine spatial planning and other such integrated planning and assessment tools. The importance of the continued development of responsible fisheries management and maintaining marine ecosystems is reflected in a set of

recommendations aimed at sustaining wild-capture. A fourth set aims at facilitating policy change by optimizing the use of instruments such as the Open Method of Coordination as well as the forthcoming Blue Bioeconomy Forum. The final set targets future-proofing policy by recommending further development of the Common Fisheries Policy science advice system and actions to fill key knowledge gaps such as scientifically-motivated pilot fishing of as-yet unexploited lower trophic-level species. This Scientific Opinion will inform preparation for the successor of the present European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and, more broadly, policy development and implementation in the coming years to help increase responsible harvesting of food from the ocean. The Scientific Opinion is based on a detailed analysis of publicly-available scientific evidence and literature as well as close consultation with the scientific community. In particular, it is informed by an accompanying Evidence Review Report produced by SAPEA, an independent, Horizon-2020-funded consortium of European scientific academy networks, which constitutes a key component of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. Please feel free to share it and let us know in case you wish to receive printed copies of it. We hope you enjoy reading the report and welcome your feedback.



More info here:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/pdf/sam_food-from-oceans_report.pdf

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm>

Draft North Sea management plan

The trilogue negotiations between the Parliament, Council and Commission have been concluded on the North Sea multiannual management plan (NSMAP). The final document will not be made public until later this month.

Calls for proposals on Blue skills development and funding opportunities in the maritime technology sector 27/10/17

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/call-proposals-blue-skills-development-and-funding-opportunities-maritime-technology-sector_en

European Maritime Day 2018 Burgas 31 May and 1 June 2018

Check out the indicative programme of EMD 2018 in Burgas (31 May & 1 June), submit your proposals for a stakeholder workshop (deadline 30 November 2017), pitch your impact-oriented activities, ideas and solutions at our pitch stage in the networking village or apply to participate in the "Blue Bubbles", a session dedicated to young ocean activists and leaders. Interested in linking your own maritime event to EMD? Apply to register it as an EMD in My Country event! There will also be a series of local EMD events will be organised all over Europe for the public at large, so that the many European coastal regions and port cities can join in the celebrations and highlight the vital role of the seas and oceans for our life and for the economy.

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/get-involved-european-maritime-day-2018_en

Commission has published a proposal for amendment to the Baltic multiannual management plan to make it Gulf of Bothnia herring and to give ranges and biomass levels

Because Bothnian Sea and Bothnian Bay herring were merged into one by ICES, the Commission proposes replacement by Gulf of Bothnia herring, values 0,15-0,21 and 0.21-0,21 for the target fishing mortalities and 283 180 and 202 272 for the spawning stock biomass levels.

Subject: EU Strategy on Plastics

Dear colleagues from the Advisory Councils,

The European Commission has published a public consultation "Reducing marine litter: actions on single use plastics and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear" as part of the follow up to the EU Strategy on Plastics scheduled for adoption in January 2018.

Plastics are an important material in our economy and present in many aspects of our daily lives, but they also have relatively low rates of reuse and recycling and are prone to littering.

The European Commission Action Plan for a Circular Economy (2015) therefore identified plastics as one of 5 priority areas. A Communication outlining the strategy for plastics is currently under preparation and scheduled for adoption in January 2018.

Consumption patterns have shifted towards single-use items, rather than reusable alternatives. Single-use plastics are usually thrown away after one brief use; they are rarely recycled and are particularly prone to end up as litter in the natural environment. They represent half of marine litter, which has become an issue of acute public concern.

Another issue of concern is plastic waste from the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, in particular from fishing gear, that is lost by accident (for example due to weather conditions) or discarded when it is no longer fit for use.

The UN Environment Programme estimates that damage to marine environments from marine litter is at least USD 8 billion per year globally and it has been forecast that by 2050 there will be more plastics than fish in our oceans.

The Commission's Plastic Strategy will also address approaches to reduce single-use plastic items and marine litter including lost or abandoned fishing gear. On the basis of available data and analysis follow-up action will be considered in the near future. This consultation is intended to contribute to developing this knowledge base and guide such future actions.

As key stakeholders in the maritime sector, we would very much welcome your input to the consultation. The consultation consists of different parts, of which one is directed at the general public and the two others at audiences with some expert knowledge or interest for single use plastic and fishing gear respectively. The consultation is currently available in English - and from 21 December in all official EU languages - and is open until 12 February.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to the survey and providing us with valuable input for future action addressing waste from the fishing sector and lost or discarded fishing gear.

Please feel free to share the information on the survey with other stakeholders and please accept our apologies for potential cross-postings.

Kind regards,
MARE D3

Amalia de Diego de la Vega
Policy Assistant - Stakeholders Relations

European Commission

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Unit D3 – CFP and Structural Support Policy Development and Coordination

J-99 1/19

☎+32 2 296 86 14

EUMOFA has a case study on trout in Poland

EUMOFA (European market observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products) has recently published the Price Transmission Case Study on **fresh portion trout in Poland**.

Rainbow trout is the most farmed species of fish within the European Union, with production estimated by the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers at 240 000 tonnes gross weight equivalent in 2015. The development of trout farming in Poland is linked to an increase in consumption of portion trout by Polish consumers. Read the report here:

<http://mailchi.mp/eumofa/case-study-cooked-shrimp-1024209?e=06e7b4fb5f>

Other meetings – non EU - not exhaustive

OECS Greening the Ocean Economy 21st-24th November 2017

The 2017 **Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum** (GGSD Forum) focused on the investment, innovation **and** employment aspects of the fast-growing ocean-based industries, together with policies to protect and sustainably use marine and ocean resources and ecosystems. It looked into explored how the economic development and conservation needs can be balanced successfully through innovations in established and emerging ocean industries, as well as marine spatial planning instruments.

You can find a lot of documents here, but no meeting report:

<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/ggsd-2017/documents/>

<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/ggsd-2017/>

The MareFrame meetings: Policy Day and Scientific Conference: 13th and 14th December 2018

The MareFrame project has been about the increased use of Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions.

Attached is the BSAC report from the final meetings ./.

Find out all you need to know about MareFrame here:

<http://mareframe-fp7.org/>

ICES-ACs (pre-MIACO) meeting and MIACO meeting: 18th and 19th January 2018

The invitation from ICES is on the BSAC website:

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

The BSAC Secretariat met with the ICES Secretariat on Tuesday 21st November 2017 to confirm preparations for the pre-MIACO meeting, which the BSAC is coordinating the agenda for. The draft agenda is work in progress.

There are three places for each AC at these meetings. The BSAC chair and vice chair as well as Lindsay Keenan and Michael Andersen flagged interest. It was confirmed today by the BSAC chair that he, the vice chair and Michael Andersen as Demersal WG chair will represent the BSAC at both meetings. They are now registered with ICES. The Secretariat will send this week to ICES the draft agenda for the pre-MIACO meeting, to which Ex Com members have not had any further comments, whilst waiting for some input from one or two of the ACs, so it will be updated in the new year.

ICES workshop on cod – 23rd – 25th January 2018 at ICES HQ, Copenhagen

This is to be a workshop on Evaluation of Input data to the Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment. The BSAC Secretariat needs to know if BSAC representation/participation at this workshop is necessary. Please let me know by Monday 18th December 2018 close of play.

This is to be a workshop on Evaluation of Input data to the Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment. The BSAC Secretariat received notification of interest and indication that this is an important workshop from Lindsay Keenan and Michael Andersen. I've confirmed with the chair and vice chair that they will represent the BSAC at this workshop and have registered them with ICES.

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

LIFE have sent to the BSAC Secretariat an invitation to a LIFE Best Practice Exchange Workshop devoted to Thorupstrand community & added value for small-scale fishers (SSFs) from the markets. It will take place in Thorupstrand, Denmark, on 6-7 February 2017. The logistical details of the Workshop are in preparation.

Other information/reading

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

Their latest newsletter from November is here:
<http://lifeplatform.eu/news-deck-november-2017/>

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

Latest research by the Marine Conservation Society reveals the top 10 products littering our beaches.
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/10-products-littering-beaches-marine-conservation-society_uk_5a1e8b24e4b0d724fed4d4e7

Low Impact Fishers of Europe: Press Release

LIFE urges to EU Commission to carry out an urgent review of its Member States' POs' compliance to ensure that the conditions for recognition of producer organisations and inter-branch organisations laid down in Articles 14 and 16 of the Common Organisation of the Markets Regulation respectively are complied with.
<http://lifeplatform.eu/fishy-business-fish-pos-eu/>

Then it was all about eel:

Coalition Clean Baltic on eel, 23rd November 2017 before the December Council

20 NGOs call upon EU ministers to explain what they will do to protect the eel
<http://www.ccb.se/2017/11/20-ngos-call-upon-eu-ministers-to-explain-what-they-will-do-to-protect-the-eel/>

CCB's reaction to the December EU Fisheries Council decision on eel

<http://www.ccb.se/statements/ccbs-reaction-to-council-decision-on-eel-december-2017/>

The critically endangered eel was sidelined yet again at the EU Fisheries Council. The Ministers of EU Member States only managed to agree on a short fishery closure period of their own choice. The decision represents a remarkable disregard of MSY and CFP rules and the Ministers fought to keep fishing open on an endangered species in an unprecedented way. The small sliver of hope is in the signed commitment to do more for eel and CCB will now turn attention to the Ministers demanding them to be true to their word. CCB acknowledges and thank for the work done by the Commission and Commissioner Vella for standing up for the rules and the protection of eels.

Fisheries Secretariat after the December Council

EU Fisheries Council 2018 agrees catch limits for the main commercial fish stocks in the Atlantic and North Sea

Published on December 13, 2017

The EU Fisheries Council has agreed on a regulation setting the 2018 catch limits for the main commercial fish stocks in the Atlantic and North Sea. On 13 December 2017 after all-night negotiations, the Council reached a political agreement on a regulation concerning the 2018 fishing opportunities for the main commercial fish stocks in the Atlantic and the North Sea.

Regarding the critically endangered European eel, it will be prohibited to fish for European eel of an overall length of 12 cm or more in Union waters of ICES areas, including the Baltic Sea, for a consecutive three-month period to be determined by each member state between 1 September 2018 and 31 January 2019.

This falls far short of the zero or as close to zero mortality recommended by ICES.

Critical comment on the outcomes have been made by fisheries NGOs including, Seas at Risk

Fishing quota decisions for 2018: progress too slow to end overfishing by 2020. Full text at:
<https://www.fishsec.org/2017/12/13/eu-fisheries-council-2018-agrees-catch-limits-for-the-main-commercial-fish-stocks-in-the-atlantic-and-north-sea/>

The Pew Charitable Trusts, Seas At Risk, Oceana, Client Earth and the Fisheries Secretariat sent a joint letter to the Fisheries Ministers of the EU Member States (Press release Fish Sec 8th December 2017)

Before the December Fisheries Council to agree fishing quotas in the Northeast Atlantic and North Sea for 2018, the Fisheries Secretariat, together with Seas At Risk, Pew, Oceana, ClientEarth, called on EU Fisheries Ministers to follow current scientific advice and end overfishing.

https://www.fishsec.org/app/uploads/2017/12/171204_Joint-NGO-Council-briefing-before-December-Council-cover-letter.pdf

Fisheries Secretariat has sent information to share

An article on eel about illegal trade in eels:

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/mystery-of-the-eel-europes-own-ivory-trade/>

A number of short (8 min) informative and very watchable ARTE TV pieces, some featuring small scale fishermen.

<https://www.arte.tv/en/videos/RC-014179/big-business-baby-fish/>

Also links to AMBER an EU dam mapping project, and from that to a report on testing different solutions at 3 German hydro-power plants.

<https://amber.international/report-on-downstream-migration-of-european-silver-eel-at-three-german-hydropower-stations/>

From Michael Andersen on eel

A link to a video produced and presented by Allan Buch, who is chairman of the local association of the Danish Fishermne Producer Association, for the Belts. Based in Middelfart. His eight minute video presents his small scale fishery for eel from of Skrillinge Strand and how important is to the local community:

<https://vimeo.com/245759952/62c427b1fe>

And a note on the socio-economic importance of eel in Denmark **attached** ./.

The Danish newspaper Fishing News on eel

From 16th December 2017

It states that the agreed three month closure on eel fishing will be a heavy blow to the pound net fishery. It estimates that a closure from 1st November to 31st January will reduce the fishery by at least 25%. The eel fishery has already been reduced by 50% over the past ten years to follow the eel management plan. It's described as yet another blow to the Baltic fishermen, coming on top of the reduced quotas for western Baltic cod and herring and the extended closure on the cod fishery.

The Association of Fisheries Protection calls the decision on eel Well thought out, but done badly because it's not been thought through to the end!

Glad that a total ban has been avoided, but the Council has not agreed on a technically and factually correct way to protect the eel. The conservation of spawning silver eels can only be successful for the desired and necessary reconstruction of the eel population. In German here:

<http://www.fischereischutzverband.de/seiten/aktuell.html>

Swedish Fishermen's Producer Organisation states that the EU policy on eel is not credible

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

Aveltorx 3, 6th floor | 1609 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 20128949 | www.bsac.dk

The president of the organisation states that to prohibit fishing for adult eels and allow fishing for glass eels is not a serious and sustainable policy. The EU has previously ordered Member States to take measures to protect the eel. Sweden has adopted a national eel management plan and only a few fishermen can fish eel over 70cms. To ban fishing for eels about 12 cm, whilst still allowing countries such as France and Spain to fish glass eels is not serious. In Swedish:
<http://www.sfpo.se/>

Unacceptable rise in catch quota for bluefin tuna! WWF protests

Rome – Brussels – As the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting closed its doors in Morocco, WWF was deeply disappointed with ICCAT's decision to drastically increase catch quotas for bluefin tuna when the recovery of the stock is not confirmed yet. WWF also deplores the lack of progress made to improve the fate of shortfin mako shark, blue shark and tropical tuna populations.
http://www.wwf.eu/what_we_do/oceans/?uNewsID=317090

Links to the Benthis project (thanks to Alex Olsen)

The BENTHIS project is a European initiative to look at impacts of bottom trawling and our project has worked very closely with the BENTHIS Project. The leader of BENTHIS is also part of our group. BENTHIS has produced these 5 animations ... they suggest we distribute them to interested parties:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTbYo2An_S0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAghyCWJ4Q0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDV_Y02Xyao

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR7CC1XGMTc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM-jg1RrNQ>

The Pelagic habitat: exploring the concept of good environmental status

Read this in the ICES Journal of Marine Science, Volume 74, Issue 9, 1 December 2017, Pages 2333–2341,
<https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/74/9/2333/4085765>

Watch a video by Professor Sture Hansson and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences about competition for fish in the Baltic.

See the youtube clip below as a summary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iw8efBx3dbM&feature=youtu.be>

And an article Competition for the fish: fish extraction from the Baltic Sea by humans, aquatic mammals, and birds. ICES Journal of Marine Science (2017),

Attached ./ x2

Then there is a presentation made by Sven Gunnar Lunneryd from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences made at a recent meeting in Simrishamn. It gives figures on the population growth of seals in the Baltic and also makes a comparison with the Norwegian coast

Attached ./

All shared with us by Staffan Larsson (thank you)

The Danish Parliament sends a letter to the EU about plastics 4th December 2017 4th December 2017

Yes, a Danish Parliament in full agreement has sent a letter to the EU Commission with a wish list for a future European strategy on plastics and expressing concerns about the use of plastics. The letter calls on the Commission to be ambitious and to think of long term solutions surrounding the challenges from plastics. Plastics are not just a problem of waste but must be a part of the circular economy where plastic must be recycled and re-used. The news in Danish is here, but the letter is in English:

http://mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/MFVM/Letter_to_the_European_commission.pdf

BONUS news

<https://www.bonusportal.org/>

HELCOM and BONUS tighten collaboration for the good of environmental protection action in the Baltic Sea 15th December 2017

HELCOM Heads of Delegation note the contribution of BONUS projects to policy-making, including the upcoming HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. The 53rd Meeting of the Head of Delegations (HOD) of HELCOM, which concluded earlier this week in Helsinki, has taken note of recent policy-related results from a number of BONUS projects related to topics of biodiversity protection and marine protected areas, nutrients, social and economic analysis, and climate change. These policy messages stem from discussions at a HELCOM-BONUS workshop held on 6 November 2017 (workshop's conclusion document available on the 53rd HOD meeting site).

https://www.bonusportal.org/news/helcom_and_bonus_tighten_collaboration_for_the_good_of_environmental_protection_action_in_the_baltic_sea.3426.news

BONUS PROJECT NEWS 08.12.2017

New EU competition for innovations in the Baltic Sea!

The EU-funded project BONUS RETURN announces a competition for innovations addressing the reuse of nutrients and carbon in the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea's ecosystems are threatened due to marine and land pollution, thus endangering its current and future benefits to society. The Baltic Sea nutrients and carbon reuse challenge is open to countries within the European Union. Applicants are required to submit their applications [HERE](#), before 12th February 2018.

https://www.bonusprojects.org/bonusprojects/news/new_eu_competition_for_innovations_in_the_baltic_sea!.3425.news

Europêche welcomes the new plan to manage the North Sea fisheries sustainably

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/182274/europeche-welcomes-the-new-plan-to-manage-the-north-sea-fisheries-sustainably>

Europêche has got a Managing Director

Europêche has made Daniel Voces de Onáindi, former Policy Adviser for 5 years in the same organisation, Managing Director and Rosalie Tukker as Fisheries Policy Officer Assistant. Read more here:

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/europeche-strengthens-its-work-to-supporting-the-european-fishing-industry-183952>

Fra: Carla Sbrocchi [<mailto:Carla.D.Sbrocchi@student.uts.edu.au>]

Sendt: 18. december 2017 05:42

Til: Sally Clink <sc@bsac.dk>

Emne: Information on Baltic Sea Salmon Fishery requested for PhD research

HELP WANTED TO DOWN UNDER

An Australian PhD student is interested in the impact of fisheries policy, such as the EU Common Fisheries Policy and regulations, on the provision of social information to the decision making process, and how this may have contributed to managing for the fishery in a way which considers the fishers' diverse needs more explicitly. She hopes that someone from the Baltic Sea Advisory Council might be willing to speak with her about this topic. Based in Australia, she's looking for someone to speak with her for 30-40 minutes over the telephone or skype. Initially focussing on the Baltic Salmon fishery, however, if someone has a perspective which spans multiple fisheries, that would also be great. She has sent an information sheet which describes the project a bit more formally and a few of the types of questions. Contact:

Carla Sbrocchi, PhD Candidate
University of Technology Sydney | School of International Studies
and Centre for Marine Socioecology | <http://marinesocioecology.org/>
E: carla.d.sbrocchi@student.uts.edu.au
Skype: carla.sbrocchi | M : +61 466 844 847

Clean Nordic Oceans: thank you!

Thank you to all of you who have chosen to become part of the Clean Nordic Oceans (CNO) network.

2017 has been an establishment phase for CNO, which has established a solid platform and an increasing network. By 2018 you will see and hear a lot more from us. We are looking forward to a very exciting year in a theme that is increasingly given more attention.

Follow us on:

Website (www.cnogear.org)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/cnogear>)

Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/cleannordicoceans/>)

On behalf of the CNO team

Thank you!

Gjermund Langedal

Project leader

HELCOM meetings and news

HOLAS II: From HELCOM to Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) and from BSAC to HELCOM

The Secretariat drafted a reply to the HELCOM HOLAS II questionnaire. It will be forwarded to HELCOM. Contact Secretariat if you want to see it.

VACANCY HELCOM RETROUT Project Manager

The attached vacancy of RETROUT Project manager (for project WP 4) at the HELCOM Secretariat was opened today.

The appointment is planned to be full time preferably already from 15 February 2018 until the end of the initiative in September 2020. However, part-time employment can also be considered.

Please submit your application (consisting of a CV and a motivation letter) via e-mail to Administrative Officer Riina Kero (riina.kero@helcom.fi) no later than **January 10th, 2018** (write "RETROUT Project Manager" in the subject field of the message).

HELCOM FISH-PRO

Please save the date for the fifth meeting of HELCOM FISH-PRO II that will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, on the premises of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, on 14-16 February 2018. The meeting will start on Wednesday 14 February at 9:00 and will terminate on Friday 16 February by 13:00.

FISH-PRO II is the continued project on Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of ecosystem-based management.

Outcome from HELCOM Fish/Env 7 14th -15th November 2017

No one from BSAC at this meeting. Contact Secretariat if you want it.

Outcome from HELCOM GEAR (Implementation of ecosystem approach) 23rd -24th November 2017

Contact Secretariat if you want it.

HELCOM Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea (FISH-M 5-2017), Stockholm, Sweden, 29 November - 1 December 2017, together with presentations and documents considered by the meeting, is now available

Presentation given by the BSAC representatives and their report from meeting attached ./.

Fifth meeting of HELCOM FISH-PRO II 14-16 February 2018 Gothenburg

This is the continued project on Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of ecosystem based management. No documents or agenda ready yet.

HELCOM is planning for its Ministerial meeting 6th March 2017, Brussels

How will the Baltic Sea region respond to the call to action set by the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development? What efforts should be prioritized in order to achieve the aim of the Baltic Sea Action Plan – a healthy Baltic Sea by 2021? How should the Action Plan be adjusted based on the newest scientific knowledge and the challenges ahead? These are among the questions on the table at the 53rd HELCOM Heads of Delegation meeting today and tomorrow. The questions form the basis of the negotiations ahead of the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Brussels on 6 March, bringing together the responsible ministers from the Baltic Sea countries and the EU Commissioner for Environment. The Heads of Delegation meeting this week will focus in particular on the Declaration to be adopted at the Ministerial Meeting, which will frame the work for the Baltic Sea marine environment in the years to come.

Fishermen's health and safety

The 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/>

Add programme