


Nr 02 Monday 26th February 2018

Dear members,

We wrote to members for contributions by February 23rd 2018
Please send contributions to the next news by Wednesday 21st March 2018
Four attachments sent to members .

BSAC news and meetings and other ACs

The BSAC Executive Committee meeting Tuesday 30th January 2018

The draft budget and work programme for the coming year starting 1st April 2018 were adopted. There was a well-received presentation on the challenges and opportunities for the collection of discards in European fishing ports. Recreational fisheries was discussed; an initiative on the T90 Bacoma codend for the cod fishery was proposed

See the report and presentation here:

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

The coming BSAC meetings 8th and 9th May 2018: Executive Committee and General Assembly

You've all seen the invitations.

All you've got to do now is sign up and book your journeys, AND send in nominations.

Draft agendas to follow asap.

All other coming meetings are mentioned on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/>

The BSAC draft budget and Work Programme for 2018-2019 and the new Framework Partnership Agreement with the Commission 2018-2022

The BSAC Secretariat has just signed a new Framework Partnership Agreement with the Commission for the next four years (2018-2022). Once that's in place the Commission will start to process the application for funding for the new BSAC year 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019. The application has already been sent to DG Mare.

Application for membership of the BSAC by "FSK" Foreningen for Skånsomt Fiskeri (Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery)

On 25th January 2018, the Secretary wrote to members and Member States about the application for membership from the Danish small-scale fisheries organisation Foreningen for Skånsomt Fiskeri (Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery), based in Elsinore. This application has been accepted and FSK will be welcomed to the BSAC at its meetings in May as General Assembly member.

Application for membership of the BSAC (General Assembly) Dansk Amatørfiskerforening/Dansk Fritidsfiskerforening

The Secretariat has just received an application for membership from the Danish recreational fisheries organisation Dansk Amatørfiskerforening/Dansk Fritidsfiskerforening. They represent amateur fishermen fishing for recreational purposes. They have about 5,000 members, of whom about 3,500 are fishing in the Baltic. Their application has been sent to Member States for consideration.

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

On 10th January 2018, the chair of the BSAC received a letter, seeking input on future funding for the fisheries and maritime sectors after 2020. The questions were sent to the BSAC Executive Committee members. Responses were received from the Association of Fisheries Protection and from the Fisheries Secretariat (answers fully supported by Coalition Clean Baltic and the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation). The Secretariat has sent the responses to DG Mare. Contact Secretariat if you want to see them. AND **Extended deadline:** The Commission has written to say that some ACs have informed that the deadline of 5 February was too tight, as there were no meetings scheduled. Since the Commission attaches

importance to views from the ACs on this they would be grateful for advice on the post 2020 EU finding, and which should be sent before the end of March. BSAC members can contact Secretariat for the questionnaire.

Annual report on the implementation of the landing obligation (Regulation (EU) 2015/812 amending Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, Article 15.14)

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. The questionnaire was sent to the BSAC ExCom. One response was received (from the Fisheries Secretariat). It was sent to the Commission.

A questionnaire on policy options to reduce the level and detrimental impact of plastics in the European seas caused by the fishing industry

Deloitte Netherlands and Wageningen University are doing a project for the European Commission to assess the impact of policy options which can reduce the level and detrimental impact of plastics in the European seas caused by the fishing industry. Four policy options are identified:

- Extended producer responsibility without deposit scheme
- Extended producer responsibility + deposit scheme
- Recycling target for plastic material
- Product design (including the possibility of substitution of plastics in fishing gear by other materials)

The Fisheries Secretariat sent a reply, which was forwarded to Deloitte and co. The Danish Fishermen PO (among others) has taken part in a telephone interview. The Danish newspaper Fishing News from 17th February 2018 has a series of informative articles on marine waste and what the sector is doing to bring collected waste back to the ports.

Repeat call from the BSAC for a reduction in mesh size

The constant call from the BSAC has been for the possibility to change the technical rules prevailing in the Baltic Sea. Back in December, the BSAC chair wrote to the BALTFISH Presidency calling for a short term immediate change of the technical regulations in Baltic cod fishery and to repeat the call for a reduction in the mesh size from 120 mm to 110 mm, in line with what the BSAC has already called for in its recommendations for technical measures in the demersal fishery. On 5th February 2018, the Fisheries Director for the BALTFISH Presidency Denmark replied to inform that no decision has been taken to reduce the mesh size, and different views amongst the Member States on this are likely to continue. Please see both letters on the BSAC website. The BSAC letter and the BALTFISH reply are here:


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

EU-Russia and fishing opportunities

On 7th December 2017, the BSAC wrote to DG Mare about EU Russia with some questions on fishing opportunities and TAC/quota setting. On 13th February 2018, H el ene Clark replied. Please see on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-chair-letter-to-DG-Mare-on-EU-Russia>

Proposal from the BSAC chair to create a BSAC working group to deal with recreational cod fisheries in the western Baltic: what does BALTFISH intend?

At the BSAC ExCom meeting 30th January 2018, the ExCom asked the Secretariat to send a letter to the BALTFISH Presidency asking whether they plan to engage in the work on the management of recreational fisheries in the future. This was done, and a reply has been received from BALTFISH - attached .

The chair intends to put this item on the agenda for the Ex Com meeting 8th May 2018

BALTFISH/Member States

BALTFISH BSAC workshop on recreational cod fishery in the Baltic, Monday 29th January 2018, Copenhagen.

Everything from this Workshop is on the BSAC website here:

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

The message received from Ole Toft, Fisheries Director for the Danish BALTFISH Presidency. It is copied from the email:

Dear Reine,

I would like to thank you and the BSAC for your support and for hosting the joint BSAC/BALTFISH workshop on recreational fishery on cod last month.

The financial support from the BSAC made it possible to invite scientists to give very informative presentations on many aspects related to recreational fishery. We highly appreciate this as well as we appreciate the excellent catering.

I was very pleased to see that so many people had signed up for the workshop. I myself found the presentations very instructive and illuminating and I think they formed a good base for the remaining part of the workshop.

Overall, I sensed a very positive atmosphere and I certainly believe that both parties can agree that we concluded the workshop successfully.

Let me also warmly thank Sally for all the work and efforts she dedicated to organise the workshop.

Best regards,

Ole

How is it going with developing a Salmon management plan for the Baltic?

We were informed by a BALTFISH representative that after the BALTFISH technical meeting on salmon on 30th January 2018, BALTFISH reached a provisional agreement, pending ICES evaluation which would be due at the end of May, after which the BALTFISH High Level Group would come back to the plan. A discussion with the Commission is also coming up. No decision was reached then on distributing any document to the BSAC, but note has been taken of the BSAC position.

And the Danish BALTFISH Presidency has just informed a list of stakeholder recipients that:

“This is to inform you that we plan to host a joint BALTFISH HLG and BALTFISH Forum Meeting on 27 June 2018 in Copenhagen. At this stage, we have not planned further BALTFISH Forum Meetings. As you may know, we are working on a salmon plan, and as soon as it is ready for consultation, it will be forward to you for comments.”

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

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/211 of 21st November 2017 establishing a discard plan as regards salmon in the Baltic Sea

Find it here:

http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Commission/2018_211-211117salmonENG.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB

Commissioner Vella was at a recent conference: Countdown to 2020 how far has the EU come in ending overfishing organised by PEW 21st February 2018 (Ending overfishing in Northwestern Europe)

Read his speech here:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/vella/announcements/commissioner-vellas-speech-pew-charitable-trusts-countdown-2020-how-far-has-eu-come-ending_en

The programme from the conference is here:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/_media/assets/2018/02/eofinwe_countdown_to_2020_how_far_has_the_eu_come_in_ending_overfishing.pdf?la=en

EU Maritime and Fish, Farfish: Improving knowledge and management of EU fisheries outside Europe, while contributing to sustainability and long-term profitability

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

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6th February 2018

FarFish aims to provide knowledge, tools and methods to support responsible, sustainable and profitable EU fisheries outside European waters, compatible with Maximum Sustainable Yield. To achieve this, FarFish will develop practical, achievable and cost-effective fisheries management tools and advice which can be applied immediately. The work will be done in collaboration of scientists, policy makers, resource users and other stakeholders aimed to improve fisheries management competences. FarFish will provide a better knowledge base of these fisheries and encourage resource users to actively take part in the management, thus empowering them, generating a sense of ownership and enhancing compliance.

<https://www.farfish.eu/>

Consultation by EU on Evaluation of the marketing standards framework for fishery and aquaculture products

http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-594424_en

Consultation is open from 31st Jan to 28th Feb

Remember the EMFF Stakeholder Conference “Beyond 2020: supporting Europe’s Coastal Communities?” The final conclusions of the conference that took place in Tallinn on 12-13 OCT 2017 are now available online at: <http://www.emff-now-and-then.eu/doc.html>

With more than 70 speakers and 300 participants, the conference marked an important moment to prepare for the next programming period. The final report with the conclusions from the Conference is here:

<http://www.emff-now-and-then.eu/documents/DG-MARE-Conclusions-Conference-A4-03.pdf>

Interim evaluation of the direct management under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Consultation

See here:

http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-862904_en

Looking back to January and just a few lines from EP Pêche Fisheries Committee on recreational fisheries from the Committee meeting 24th January 2018

This was the second reading on the report that rapporteur MEP Norica Nicolai has produced. She highlighted the lack of data collection on recreational fisheries and said it was important to ask the Commission to oblige Member States to have more clear data. Monitoring and control are also important: or else it will be a disaster of the use of fish stocks. And still to be resolved is a definition of recreational fishing at EU level. Several MEPs had comments to make, here are some of them:

- Recreational fishing is Member State competence
- Does the Landing Obligation apply to recreational fishing?
- Fisheries control is needed
- All fishermen who sell their catches must be registered as commercial fishermen
- The enormous impact of recreational fisheries in terms of jobs and semi-subsistence fishing
- The European Parliament has managed to get recreational fishing taken into account: the North Sea multiannual plan, sea bass and Baltic cod
- Recreational and commercial fishing are not on an equal footing
- Data on this sector is essential
- A regional approach is required

Speaking for the Commission, Elisa Roller said that some very important issues had been raised. She referred to the EU’s Data Collection Regulation and the legislation and requirements in place for Member States to provide data on recreational fisheries. Does the LO apply to recreational fisheries? There is the obligation in the EU legislation to land all catches of species subject to catch limits or subject to the minimum conservation reference size. So, it applies to recreational and commercial [fisheries], but it’s not clear, she said, but the principle is there.

The rapporteur thanked all and concluded that a code of behaviour is needed. She doesn't have a policy up her sleeve, since this is the first time this is being dealt with. Amendments to the draft report can be made until the end of January. The draft report is here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARTL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE615.424>

The next meetings of the Committee:

Monday, 26 February 2018, from 15:00 to 18:30 and

Tuesday, 27 January 2018, from 9:00 to 12:30

Some items on the agenda:

- Fishing mortality ranges and safeguard levels for certain herring stocks in the Baltic Sea (this is the Gulf of Bothnia herring) (I 2017/0348(COD) COM(2017)0774 - C8-0446/2017)
- Optimisation of the value chain in the fishing sector
- Towards a sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector: current status and future challenges

European Fisheries Control Agency Advisory Board meeting Friday 23rd February 2018, Brussels.

After confirmation with the BSAC chair, the following BSAC representatives took part at the meeting: Staffan Larsson, Swedish Fishermen's Federation and Lindsay Keenan, the Fisheries Secretariat. On the agenda for the meeting:

1. Introduction and state of play:
 - ACs: state of play.
2. EFCA's Annual Report 2017
3. EFCA's Programming Documents (PD): PD 2018 implementation and Draft PD 2019
4. Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board
5. AOB

The BSAC representatives will report back.

News from the Control Agency 07.12.2017: EFCA charters a EU fisheries patrol vessel

Following the publication of an open call for tender, the EFCA has awarded the contract for chartering an offshore EU fisheries patrol vessel to a consortium led by Sentinel Marine Ltd for the vessel Lundy Sentinel, a British flagged Multi-Role Field Support Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel (ERRV) built in 2015. The vessel's overall length is 61 meters and can launch up to three boarding boats. In 2018, the vessel will be deployed primarily as a fisheries patrol vessel in international, EU and where possible third country waters in the different joint deployment plans and other operations from the Mediterranean and Black Sea, to the Western Waters, North Sea and Baltic Sea.

https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/EN_pressrelease-LundySentinel-January2018.pdf

Tackling overfishing – EU push for sustainability shows results (European Commission website)

20/02/2018

Good news for European fisheries: fishing businesses in the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea are making record profits, thanks to a solid recovery of popular fish stocks like North Sea cod, which were severely depleted just a few years ago. A sign that the EU Common Fisheries Policy's focus on sustainable fishing is paying off – for fishermen and fish stocks alike.

“When it comes to fisheries, the European Union is hitting our headline targets. More fish stocks are being fished at sustainable levels than ever before. Fishermen targeting these stocks are seeing their profits and salaries go up. We’ve made a priority of the Mediterranean and Black Sea, where overfishing is worst. And where there are teething problems, we are talking to fishermen and scientists to find workable solutions, while keeping our eyes set firmly on our sustainability target,” said European Commissioner Karmenu Vella, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

The responsible catch limits proposed by the European Commission **in the Atlantic, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea** have seen overexploitation decline drastically. Today, 53 out of 76 stocks for which data are available are fished sustainably – compared to 44 stocks in 2017 and just 5 stocks in 2009. For stocks managed wholly by the EU, 97% by volume are being fished at sustainable levels.

As a result, fish stocks in these regions have recovered to very healthy levels. Northern hake, for example, has grown from 32,000 tons in 2006 to 265,000 tons today – an increase of more than 700%. Staples like North-Sea cod, which was close to collapse a generation ago, have recently been certified as sustainable and are now back on supermarket shelves.

And fishermen are reaping the benefits of this recovery. In 2015, EU fishing fleets registered record-high net profits of almost 800 million euros. This represents a 60% increase in two years, making fisheries one of the EU's strongest growing sectors. Vastly healthy profit margins ranging from 16% to 47% – depending on the country – are the clearest sign yet that sustainability makes sound business sense.

In contrast to the positive outlook for the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea, overfishing in the **Mediterranean and the Black Sea** is a continuing source of concern. In 2017, scientists found only 7 of the 60 Mediterranean stocks they assessed to be at healthy levels, while fishing fleets are struggling more than their northern counterparts.

Rapid and sustained progress is now needed in these sea basins as well to deliver on the EU's high level of ambition: under the Common Fisheries Policy, EU stocks have to be fished sustainably by 2020.

The European Commission has therefore made these sea basins a priority for targeted action. Following last year's MedFish4Ever Declaration for the Mediterranean and the Bucharest Declaration for the Black Sea, the Commission is now working with its international partners to translate the political commitments made into tangible next steps. With first results: riparian countries recently agreed a package of measures ranging from the first ever fisheries restricted area in the Adriatic to joint inspection schemes and a management plan for turbot in the Black Sea. Looking ahead, the EU is also planning to adopt a regional plan of action on small-scale fisheries later this year.

Other meetings – non EU - not exhaustive

Eurofish, based in Copenhagen, held its Governing Council on 1st and 2nd February 2018

Eurofish is dealing with assistance in marketing, processing, aquaculture, as well as projects, assisting the sector in its member countries (some of which are also BSAC members).

The BSAC Secretariat attended the first day. Eurofish staff reported on a busy 2017, a planned busy programme for 2018, plus a new member to Eurofish: Hungary.

Short BSAC report attached [./.](#)

The ICES WKIDEBCA Workshop on Evaluation of Input Data to Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment – ICES from January 23rd to 25th 2018

Find attached a report from Michael Andersen and Lindsay Keenan [./.](#) (this was referred to at the ExCom meeting 30th January 2018)

Low Impact Fishers of Europe Thorupstrand, Denmark, 7th-8th February 2018 (did someone mention seals?)

Survive and Thrive: Adding Value to Fisheries Policy and Production for Small Scale Fishers

Fishers organisation and stakeholders from across the Baltic and North Sea met to discuss how to maximize the potential of local and fresh products and ensure a fair and equitable access to the markets.

http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Thorupstrand_2018_PR.pdf

Attached a report from the BSAC Secretariat [./.](#)

Also lot of reporting on this event in Danish Fishing News of 10th and 17th Feb 2018

The LIFE's Baltic and North Sea Project dedicated to supporting small-scale fishing is coming to an end: Final Conference 26th March 2018, Brussels

To mark this special occasion, they invite to the Project's Final Conference, aimed at summarizing what they've achieved over the last 2 years or so. For LIFE Members, they welcome 2 persons per Organization. The detailed agenda will be distributed as soon as practicable:



ICES WKSCIENCE2ADVICE 2018 workshop on translating science into advice 9th- 12th April 2018 at ICES HQ in Copenhagen

A key criterion for ICES advice is that it is based on the best available science and data. In spite of that, ICES has conducted rather little systematic evaluation of the processes that support the uptake and translation of science into advice and has not provided guidance to our wider network of scientists and advisers on the working practices, project funding mechanisms and other considerations that accelerate uptake and translation. The objective of this workshop is to fill this gap by inviting scientists and advisers with a national or international track record in turning science into advice to review the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and to identify and describe processes, practices and funding mechanisms that have supported uptake. Outcomes of the workshop will be criteria to assess the factors that influence that uptake and translation of science into national or international advice and a review of the processes, practices and funding mechanisms that have effectively supported the translation of science into advice. Outcomes will be used to strengthen links between science and advisory processes in ICES and to guide the development of those scientific projects aiming to develop methods and tools to support advice.

ICES WKMSIGD – Workshop on Methods for Stakeholder Involvement in Gear Development: May or July 2018

DTU Aqua have informed the BSAC that due to the work being done on involving stakeholders in the development and testing of fishing gears, as well as the proposed regulation on technical measures where a need for greater flexibility and increased stakeholder involvement is highlighted, they are organizing an ICES workshop on the topic. The workshop will be held in Copenhagen (ICES) or Gothenburg (HAV). They hope to have at least 20-30 stakeholders at the workshop.

It will be chaired by Jordan Feekings, DTU Aqua Denmark, and Daniel Valentinsson, Sweden, will meet for 3 days (dates to be confirmed) to:

- Review current knowledge and experience in involving stakeholders in the development of fishing gears (ideally this should involve scientists, fishers and managers);
- Propose future work looking at how to improve the methodologies currently employed;
- Develop an advice and best practice document to help identify incentive structures, self-sampling methods, facilitating stakeholder involvement, and information transfer between initiatives;
- Identify how these initiatives can facilitate the landing obligation and the proposal of the new technical measures;

It will be held over three days, where the second day will be devoted to a workshop with stakeholders. They hope to have participants from all stakeholder groups (fishermen, fishermen representatives, managers, net makers, scientists, and group of directors such as BSAC and NSAC) present at the workshop. The reason for the stakeholder workshop is to get all parties to describe their role in the process and identify what problems can arise when increasing flexibility and industry involvement in the technical measures. They also want to identify possible work that can be undertaken to solve the problems.

Find Terms of reference here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/ICES-Workshop-on-Methods-for-Stakeholder-Involvement>

They have made a doodle to find a date that suits best: (<https://doodle.com/poll/5grcbwhqru5bmm3b>). The chair, vice chair and WG chairs have already been informed. No decision yet taken on who will participate from the BSAC.

And PS. If you would like to follow the work they are doing in the fishing gear technology group at DTU you can like our newly created Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fiskeriteknologidtuaqua/>) of our Fast Track group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1189321981150171/>). Feel free to circulate these.

More ICES: the Annual Science Conference, Hamburg 25th -27th September 2018: tipping points

Tipping points complex nature and implications to marine socio-ecological systems management

Tipping points are critical thresholds for large, abrupt and (quasi-) irreversible changes happening in the biosphere. Generally referred to as regime shifts, these changes can totally remake an ecosystem's structure and function. The resulting new state, stabilized by feedback mechanisms, is persistent in time, and impossible (or very difficult) to reverse due to hysteresis. Regime shifts usually cause strong ecological, social, and economic impacts and hence need to be accounted for in sustainable natural resource management.

Marine ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to such shifts. The development of ecosystem-based management approaches has created a cornerstone for integrating regime shifts in management processes and decisions. The first step to successful integration requires the development of suitable indicators to understand, detect, and prevent unwanted future shifts of a system to a non-desired state or from a non-desired to a desired-state. Thus, defining tipping points and identifying their associated drivers is of primary importance.

Drivers causing tipping points may be natural or caused by humans, act at multiple temporal and spatial scales, and have lagged effects on social-ecological systems, acting directly and immediately (proximate) or causing a chain reaction (distal). Differences in causation (proximate vs distal) and interactions between drivers impacting different system components as well as lagged and cross-scale effects are a real challenge for the understanding of tipping points. The complexity of social-ecological systems requires collaboration, particularly when attempting to define tipping points based on empirical data and account for them in management.

This session will explore links and interactions between tipping points connected to shifts in marine ecosystems. It will examine implications of tipping points for ecosystem-based management and society.

Presentations will therefore come from a variety of research areas (for example historical ecology, sociology, archaeology, economics, biology, politics) to allow cross-disciplinary discussion and understanding of tipping point mechanisms, as well as to support the development of more comprehensive management strategies.

Contributions are invited on, for example:

- definition of tipping points and their drivers, based on empirical data
- theoretical studies and conceptual models linking different drivers and tipping points
- evidence for linked tipping points in marine social-ecological systems
- tipping points and drivers comparison, differences and relationships (lagged effects, cross scale studies, etc.)
- recent advances in marine ecosystem-based management accounting for tipping points
- comparisons of different strategies (mitigation, adaptation, restoration) for managing tipping points
- frameworks allowing to take into account tipping points in marine management decisions
- methods related to tipping point detection (early warning signals)

A reminder about the ICES ASC 2018 (24-27 September 2018, Hamburg, Germany) abstract submission deadline in a bit less than a month **19th March 2018**. Camilla Sguotti, Christian Möllmann and Xochitl Cormon will be hosting a cross-disciplinary session exploring the complex nature of tipping points. They aim to conduct a cross-disciplinary session and therefore invite contribution of a **broad range of scientists** e.g. history, sociology, economics, etc., in addition to marine ecologists and fishery scientists as well as contributions from **non-scientist authors** such as stakeholders, experts and policy and/or decision-makers. Early-career scientists are also encouraged to apply (partial funding may be provided by the ICES). Consult the ICES site for more information, instructions for applications and other theme session description.

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/asc/asc2018/Pages/default.aspx>

Other information/reading

Small scale fisheries: LIFE's Newsletter for December and January is available here

<http://lifeplatform.eu/news-deck-december-2017-january-2018/>

Fisheries Secretariat informs: Scientists propose a Swedish ban on bottom trawling in the Baltic Sea to help restore the cod stock, and prioritize access for small scale low impact fishermen.

(It's a three-minute radio article in Swedish from Swedish radio) 7th February 2018

It's about Baltic Sea 2020 calling for a ban on bottom trawling and instead to encourage a coastal fishery with gill nets and hooks. The president of the Swedish Fishermen's Federation points out that as long as the seals are there, a coastal fishery is not feasible. The Swedish Water Management Board agrees that the cod is smaller and not growing as fast; it has been tasked to look into the effect trawling has and will be reporting on this at the end of May.

<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=406&artikel=6880555>

From Baltic Sea 2020 Proposal from European Parliament risks marine ecosystems and fish stocks

Pressroom (9th February 2018):

On 16th of January 2018 the European Parliament voted on a proposal to merge and simplify a set of rules within current fisheries legislation. The organization Seas At Risk says that despite that the legislation's aim is to reduce the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment, the proposal adopted only weakens existing legislation that served to protect the seas in Europe. The European Parliament's voting process began in November last year when the Fisheries Committee proposed the changes in the current legislation. In short, the proposal merges more than 30 existing regulations and directives, all aimed at minimizing the impacts of fishing on ecosystems. Seas At Risk suggests that the proposal seriously weakens or deletes several existing measures that protect the ecosystem. Björn Stockhausen, Fisheries Policy Officer at Seas At Risk, says that the majority of European parliamentarians who voted were influenced by particular fishing fleets and regions.

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

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<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/421-proposal-from-european-parliament-risks-marine-ecosystems-and-fish-stocks>

From Baltic Sea 2020 on building a Baltic Sea Science Centre at Skansen, Sweden (south of Stockholm)

Pressroom (22nd January 2018)

In 2011 Skansen told BalticSea2020 about the idea of building a house where Skansen visitors have the opportunity to discover the Baltic Sea and its unique ecosystems. The building of the Baltic Sea Science Center started in fall 2016 and will be open to the public next year. The purpose of the knowledge center is to describe both how humans adversely affect the Baltic Sea and what can be done to change the negative development. The center will have three focus areas: eutrophication, environmental hazards and fishing, where interactivity and learning will be a common thread throughout. The Baltic Sea Science Center's primarily audience is high school- and secondary school students, but it will be as exciting for Skansen's other visitors. Three major aquariums are planned, one to show what reed dominated bays look like, with pike, perch and other coastal fish. An aquarium with fish shoals like herring and an aquarium with the predatory fish cod and salmon. The predatory fish aquarium will have a glass tunnel which will enable visitors to view and explore the marine environment from within. In total, the aquariums will contain about 40 different fish species and 15 invertebrates. The building will have a gross area of 2,000 square meters. The project is funded by Skansen and BalticSea2020, with BalticSea2020 as the main financier. Stockholm University and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences are part of the Baltic Sea Science Center knowledge council.

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/press-room/420-dn-reports-on-the-building-of-the-baltic-sea-science-center-at-skansen>

Coalition Clean Baltic: Recreational fishing in Baltic region (own report)

Recreational fishing is a very large sector in the Baltic region to consider both from a value point of view as well as potential impacts. Around 10 percent of the population in the catchment enjoy spending time at or on the water and these citizens are important stakeholders and bearers of responsibility for our waters, inland as well as on the coast and at sea. CCB has made a report of the recreational fishing sector in the Baltic region to create an overview of facts, data, regulations in place as well as recommendations for managers to consider. Catches of species targeted such sea trout and salmon are substantial and in the case of the critically endangered eel, CCB demands that fishing must be closed. Find it here.

<http://www.ccb.se/2018/02/recreational-fishing-in-baltic-region/>

Coalition Clean Baltic informs on a harbour porpoise action plan coordinator

Tiu Similä will be the coordinator for all three action plans and hence working with both the Jastarnia group and the North Sea group. Tiu has great experience from the marine mammal field. And the next meeting of the Jastarnia Group will take place 12-14/3 in Copenhagen.

World Wildlife Fund: New report on the impact of the EU IUU Regulation on seafood trade flows

(5th February 2018)

Ten years after the adoption of the EU IUU Regulation, a new report examines how the EU's carding system has impacted the flow of seafood products into and within the EU. Just over 10 years ago, it was estimated that 500,000 tonnes of illegally caught seafood products were entering our EU markets every year. An illicit activity valued at EUR 1.1 billion that was not only damaging local communities and businesses, but also depleting our pristine marine resources. "The report has identified a number of anomalies in trade – for example, spikes in the import of high value species into specific member states after a yellow carding decision. This clearly shows that more work is needed to ensure that seafood imports across the EU are controlled in a harmonised, robust and effective manner," said **Eszter Hidas, Senior Policy Officer at WWF's European Policy Office.**

<http://www.wwf.eu/?uNewsID=322611>

Provided by Lindsay Keenan (Fisheries Secretariat): An article from the Copenhagen Post (an English language newspaper published for those who do not read Danish) “Unprofitable catches illegally thrown overboard, study shows”. (19th February 2018). See here:

<http://cphpost.dk/news/unprofitable-catches-illegally-thrown-overboard-study-shows.html>

The article that the Copenhagen Post summarises comes from information from the website of the national TV/radio station Danmarks Radio, as well as its news item on TV, 18th / 19th February 2018:

“Researchers: fishermen illegally throw 1,300 tonnes of fish overboard.” In Danish 18th February 2018

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/penge/forskere-fiskere-smider-ulovligt-1300-ton-torsk-ud>

And “Fisheries chairman on discarding of fish: it takes time to adapt how you fish” in Danish 19th February 2018

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/penge/fiskeri-formand-om-udsmid-af-fisk-det-tager-tid-aendre-sit-fiskeri>

In a reply to the article from the Copenhagen Post, Michael Andersen (Demersal Working Group Chair) has sent us the following comments:

Despite the common knowledge that illegal discarding does in deed take place in some fisheries, there is absolutely nothing indicating that this is only a Danish exercise. On the contrary. ICES evaluate that more than 4.000 tonnes were discarded in 2016. This may be part of the explanation why they use old footage of discard from a Swedish trawler (and a Scottish trawler discarding saithe in the North Sea) to illustrate to activity. The Danish share of discarded cod in the Baltic is estimated by DTU Aqua to be 1.300 tonnes, which is the figure that has actually been used in the assessment. Thus, there is no need to start speculating about the potential effects of “hidden” catches. There is no “hidden” mortality caused by illegal discarding. The scientists are well aware of it and use data from that knowledge. And it is in no way a new study performed by the Danish Broadcasting – it is the result of a sampling programme that has run since 1995 – in cooperation between DTU Aqua and DFPO [Danish Fishermen PO].

This also means that what by some may be seen as “breaking news” with the potential to change the stock perception, and “core business issues for BSAC members” – is just a badly done presentation of what should be common knowledge to anyone who has spent more than just 5 minutes listening at any of the meetings of BSAC within the latest three years.

The problem lies in the mismatch between the technical regulation and the discard ban. Thanks to the Fisheries Secretariat amongst others, and their mistrust and reluctance to help the industry – we are still stuck with the very fishing gears that generate the problems.

Several NGOs share the letter they have sent to Danish fisheries minister Karen Ellemann about ending illegal, unreported discarding of fish by the Danish fishing industry

February 21st 2018

http://our.fish/en/2018/02/21/letter_denmark_ngos_elleman/

Seal damage on film

Bengt Larsson (BSAC member) shared this film and stated that seal damage is frustrating. This cod had its tail cut off by the seal, but was still alive when brought on deck.

<https://twitter.com/beaangt/status/962335710136160257?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email&iid=6395a83cb51a44f2a437102fcad9b907&uid=726426381039636482&nid=244+272699392>

An OCEANA job in Copenhagen as marine scientist and advocate

Deadline for applying 9th March 2018

<http://eu.oceana.org/en/about-us/employment-opportunities/marine-scientist-and-advocate>

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Development is spending 8 million SEK in 2018 on new projects to develop more selective fishing gear

13th February 2018

The link takes you to the Secretariat for selective fishery and the researches are at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2018/2/atta-miljoner-till-nya-projekt-for-ett-mer-selektivt-fiske/>

Europêche presents main points of concern for the fishing sector at a decisive moment for its future

22nd February 2018

Europêche met Director General Aguiar Machado. They congratulated the good results in achieving sustainable fisheries. They also pointed out some of the challenges facing the sector, for example the importance to adopt workable measures that can realistically be applied by the industry which has not been the case with the landing obligation. They also called for efforts and diplomatic pressure for more fisheries agreements with 3rd countries. Read it all here:

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/a65ace45-1cdc-4368-ab88-85377e91714e>

Copenhagen Economics: The Economic Footprint of the Danish Fishery Sector

Copenhagen Economics does analyses and reports on different subjects. It was asked to analyse the fishery sector's impact on the Danish economy. Its recent report shows that Danish fisheries and its associated industries leave a significant economic footprint on Danish society, especially in some of the more remote parts of the country. Fishing in Denmark accounts for 16,000 jobs and contributes with about 1.6 billion Euros to the Danish GNP.

Marine Ingredients, the Danish Pelagic Producer Organisation, Danish Ports and the Danish newspaper Fishing News report on this.

<https://www.copenhageneconomics.com/publications/publication/the-economic-footprint-of-the-danish-fishery-sector>

<http://www.dppo.dk/>

Back to bottom trawling: Lead article from the President of the Swedish fishermen (22nd February 2018)

"Death of the forests death of the cod" Back in the 1980s in Sweden there were fears that the forests were dying out. Doom and gloom prophesies: science must back things up. There are now debates in fisheries about over-capacity, over-fishing, and the need to protect areas. Bottom trawling is in the spotlight now and he names a couple of organisations that are opposed to it. If bottom trawling is introduced in Sweden, the fishermen will not be able to fish their quota. Brexit negotiations could lead to a revision of relative stability, which can in turn have implications for the Swedish fishery. In Swedish:

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

European Anglers Alliance reports on a horizon 2020 project on (Improved Production Strategies for Endangered Freshwater Species), IMPRESS

European eel is included in the project which ends at the end of 2018. There's a conference 17th -19th June 2018 in Norway.

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/12240/an-eu-funded-project-is-investigating-ways-to-improve-wild-freshwater-fish-stocks.html>

Fishing News International February doesn't have any Baltic news

HELCOM meetings and news

For more news from HELCOM, go to www.helcom.fi

The first workshop of the correspondence group for fisheries data (CG FISHDATA 1-2018) in Copenhagen, Denmark, has been extended to a two day meeting (27-28 February 2018) by the host, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark.

The Ninth Meeting of the project for the development of the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II 9-2018), will be held on 9-10 April 2018 at the premises of the of at the premises of Tallinn University of Technology (ICT building, Akadeemia tee 15a, Department of Marine Systems, Tallinn, Estonia).

The Outcome of **the HOLAS II Workshop on the Baltic Sea Pressure and Impact Indices**, held in Helsinki, Finland, 8 February 2018 (HOLAS II BSPI/BSII WS 1-2018), together with the documents and presentations considered by the Workshop are now available at the on the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

The outcome of **the fifth meeting of HELCOM FISH-PRO II**, held in Gothenburg, Sweden on 14-16 February 2018, together with documents and presentations considered by the Meeting, is now available on the FISH-PRO II 5-2018 Meeting Site on HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Fishermen's health and safety

PICASSO (Preventing incidents and accidents by safer ships in the oceans)

The Picasso project aims at achieving a modern and well developed maritime transport, with a well-trained and up-to-date work force that enables the sector to become greener, safer and more efficient and sustainable.

It builds upon the results of previous EU supported initiatives. Of particular relevance in this sense are the conclusions of TEN-T funded project Monalisa 2.0 (2012-EU-21007-S), under which two main activities focussed on the development of new technologies for safer ships and safer on-shore operations, followed by directed training for crew and ports operations were carrying out. Operational safety related actions laid the need to improve cooperation amongst parties at land and ship in order to face any kind of accidents and improve the crews and response teams' performance and capabilities.

<http://picassoproject.eu/>