

Dear members,

We wrote to members for contributions by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Please let us have any news by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April

### **BSAC news and meetings**

At end of this month, the BSAC will say goodbye to the Environmental Defense Fund: thank you for your membership and support to the BSAC

In April, it will say hello to two new members: the Danish Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery (FSK) and the Danish Amateur/Recreational Fisheries Association (my translation). That will bring the BSAC membership to 41 members.

Please check the BSAC website to make sure details of the organisations and contact names are correct:  
<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Members/General-Assembly>

### **Starting new year 2018-2019**

DG Mare has approved the work programme which nevertheless has to be re-submitted to Ex Com and General Assembly for approval at the meetings in May

### **Coming BSAC meetings and reminders**

Have you signed up for the Executive Committee meeting and/or the General Assembly meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018?

If not, get on with it!

[http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-\(1\)](http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Executive-Committee-meeting-(1))

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-General-Assembly-meeting>

### **The BSAC recommendation of an amendment to the Commission Delegated Regulation 2018/47 on the technical specifications of T90 in the demersal cod end**

This was raised at the Executive Committee meeting on 30th January 2018 and agreed for Krzysztof Stanuch (National Chamber of Fish Producers, Poland) to prepare a written text of the proposed amendment and to ask the Secretariat to send it to the ExCom for approval. It's been finalized and sent through the ExCom sent to DG Mare on Thursday 8th March 2018 and then direct to the Danish BALTFISH Presidency. Find it here:  
<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-proposes-amendment-to-Commission-Regulation-o>

### **ICES – continuing the regular Advisory Councils meeting with ICES before the annual MIACO meetings**

At the ICES meeting with the Advisory Councils (the so-called pre-MIACO/ICES-ACs meeting) on 18th January 2018, most of the ACs were positive about this ICES-ACs meeting and want to continue the format of a separate ICES-ACs meeting. It confirms the level of interest from the ACs. The ACOM chair encouraged the AC secretariats to come back with a firm recommendation on whether to continue this format. He appreciated the involvement of the Secretariats in coordinating this year's meeting to continue this. The Secretariats intend to send a recommendation to ICES and to propose a name.

### **ICES and a platform for informing Advisory Observers**

At the MIACO 2018 [the annual meeting of ICES with Advisory Councils], ICES introduced a forum where ICES would post information on upcoming workshops and other activities likely to be of interest to Advisory Observers. Before ICES sets this up, they asked what sort of information would be appreciated. The site will be for informative purposes and not a debate forum. The ICES SharePoint will be updated this spring, and ICES envisages the shared platform to be set up early this summer.

### **The Secretariat is meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Copenhagen**

The BSAC chair, honorary chair, vice chair and Secretariat will meet at the BSAC to prepare for the General Assembly.

### **A plastics Webex with DG Mare Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

At the invitation of DG Mare, the vice chair, working group chairs, Nils Höglund, Krzysztof Stanuch and the Secretariat will take part in a Webex to discuss plastics. DG Mare is encouraging an informal discussion and not seeking fully official positions. They want to get a good feel for the issue of fishing gear in the context of marine litter, and of the Plastics Strategy which was adopted by the Commission in January. DG Mare is working on follow-up action on fishing gear and single use plastics, along the lines of what has been referenced in the plastics strategy. Bengt Larsson: waiting to hear from you!

### **BSAC chair and Secretariat taking part at Baltic Checkpoint Expert Panel Meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The Baltic Sea Checkpoint <http://www.emodnet-baltic.eu/Home> project began in 2016. It is funded by the European Commission. The aim is to audit the value of marine data services to solve particular commercial and policy challenges with the development of the Blue Economy. On recommendation of DG Mare, the BSAC chair was invited to take part on the expert panel. This is the final checkpoint meeting. See programme here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/Baltic-Checkpoint-Expert-Panel-Meeting>

### **BALTFISH/Member States news and meetings**

Nothing new that we know. The last meeting under the Danish BALTFISH Presidency is still expected to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – to be confirmed. A Danish BALTFISH representative has confirmed that salmon is still on the front burner: they are still working on a salmon plan and a draft will be sent to ICES for evaluation and it will be forwarded to stakeholders for comments.

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

#### **The EU Council of Ministers 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – the fisheries part**

Apart from dealing with multiannual plan for demersal species in the Western Mediterranean, Finally, the Council was informed about Working conditions and safety on board fishing vessels and the state of ratification and transposition of international instruments concerning **working conditions and safety on board fishing vessels**.

The Commission encouraged member states to swiftly proceed with the ratification of the relevant international conventions that aim to ensure decent working and living condition for seafarers in the fisheries sector, i.e.: Work in Fishing Convention, or "C188" (ILO 2007 ), and the STCW-Fisheries (STCW-F, IMO 1995) and the Cape Town Agreement. The aim of a swift ratification process would be to avoid legal uncertainties and possible conflicts between different jurisdictions.

#### **EU-Russia meeting 2018: DG Mare informs**

There is no date fixed yet, but this meeting usually takes place in mid/end June.

#### **Commission Delegate Regulation laying down specifications for the implementation of the landing obligation as regards cod and plaice in Baltic Sea fisheries** (from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017)

<http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/BSAC-Resources/Documents-section/Commission/Delegated-act-laying-down-specifications-for-the-implementation-of-the-l.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

#### **#BlueInvest 2018: An ocean of opportunity with the right backing: Commission event 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Brussels**

08/02/2018

The European Commission is looking for entrepreneurs active in the blue economy to take part in a high-profile event aimed at matching cutting edge companies with public and private investors. #BlueInvest 2018, the first European event of its kind and hosted by Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, will take place on 17 May in Brussels.

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/blueinvest-2018-ocean-opportunity-right-backing\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/blueinvest-2018-ocean-opportunity-right-backing_en)

### **And what does the Commission say about aquaculture? 02/02/2018**

A recovering industry and a valuable source of healthy food – European Commission calls on regions to embrace aquaculture. After more than a decade of stagnation, EU aquaculture is finally showing signs of recovery. With 4% growth in volume and 8% in value between 2014 and 2015, and profits exceeding 400 million euro, the sector is generating more value than ever before.

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/recovering-industry-and-valuable-source-healthy-food-%E2%80%93-european-commission-calls-regions-embrace\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/recovering-industry-and-valuable-source-healthy-food-%E2%80%93-european-commission-calls-regions-embrace_en)

### **European Parliament Fisheries Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 three things:**

- The main Baltic topic was the proposed **revision of the Baltic multiannual plan to amend fishing mortality ranges and safeguard levels for the Gulf of Bothnia herring stocks.**

The Commission worked hard to explain the background and encouraged the Committee to give its support so the fishing season can begin and take advantage of an increased TAC. It will increase from 85.000 tonnes to 95.000 tonnes and give extra income: estimated 2.5 – 3 million Euros at first sale price. There was no opposition to support the amendment, but from some members there was more irritation over the fact that the Baltic plan had not been amended so as to align it with the North Sea management plan. The Commission said the most practical thing right now was to make a quick amendment of the Baltic Plan to take into account the recent ICES advice on the herring stocks, then later on to deal with a full alignment of the plan, and take some of the wording from the north Sea plan to put into the Baltic plan to amend the concept of MSY ranges. Anyway, after the exchange of views with the Commission representative, the Committee agreed on a quick procedure now, following its rules of procedure.

- **Optimisation of the value chain in the EU fishing sector**

Why an own report from the Committee? They want to ensure the addition of maximum value to the fish. The quantities coming out of the fishery are getting scarcer, but at the same time local communities need employment to keep the people in the coastal areas. So the report drawn up highlights some of the measures that can be used. Key issues of regionalisation, and tools for support, education and training for the needs of the sector, a programme for the artisanal fishery, and synergies between the Fisheries Local Action Groups. There's lots of support in the Committee for this initiative: to give the sector more support, to promote the local origin of fish and marine products "mussels from Galicia" "bonito from the North" - if the wine sector can do it, why not fisheries? The image of fishing at local level needs to be improved. Invest in young people: the next generation; get rid of bureaucracy, for example in getting the locally caught fish to the restaurants. Work more closely with the public sector, e.g. hospitals and schools, make sure there's labelling on the menus. The Commission representative appreciated the report; said that he wasn't aware of any problems with the PO's, but small scale doesn't always profit from them; what extra help can be provided by the FLAGs through the EMFF; and there's a need for support for innovation and skills for training. Amendments by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

- **Implementation of control measures for establishing the conformity of fisheries products with access criteria to the EU market**

This report goes hand in hand with the former. The motivation behind it is to ensure a level playing field between the EU fisheries sector and 3<sup>rd</sup> countries. EU legislation sets higher standards for EU fisheries than for 3<sup>rd</sup> countries, so control measures must be tightened up to make sure that there's no discrimination. There was lots of support for this report, and it goes hand in hand with the ambition of adding value to EU fisheries products. The EU is at the same time dependent on imports, and they must meet EU standards. It's about harmonisation of rules and establishing a level playing field. Amendments by 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### **From the EP Fisheries Committee: The Trawler February 2018**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/139180/Trawler%20February%202018.pdf>

This one particularly useful, because it gives the list of international meetings known so far under various agreements and partnerships.

### **The PECH Newsletter: Trawler – March 2018**

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

### **Then there was the PÊCHE meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

- **Can we see it?** The morning session started with reference to the letter sent by some of the Committee members to Commissioner Vella about the technical measures to ask him to withdraw the proposal. The Committee chair Alain Cadec regretted that he and the technical measures rapporteur didn't get to see a copy of the letter. MEP Nils Torvalds informed he was happy with the reply they received from the Commissioner who is reported to have replied that if red lines are crossed, the Commission might withdraw the proposal.
- **Revision of the Baltic multiannual plan to amend fishing mortality ranges and safeguard levels for the Gulf of Bothnia herring stocks.** Some more discussion on this, but those who spoke were in favour of the revision. Again references to the Parliament's rules of procedure and its provisions for a simplified procedure (rule 50). Amendments, as long as they are few, can still be dealt with by simplified procedure. This will be returned to at the next Committee meeting.

### **Afternoon public hearing: "Encounters between science and management in fisheries" 21 March 2018 at 14.30**

#### **From the Commission Joost Paardekooper**

He stated that policy proposals are based on best scientific advice – in other words from what is laid down in the Basic Regulation from 2013. He explained how the process runs in dealing with the scientific advice, how the Commission develops its policy paper and proposals, including the narrative and arguments in defending its proposals

#### **From Eskild Kirkegaard ICES**

He explained the role of ICES, how the process runs, the Magnitude of the work, how the expert groups are the engines of the advice and the Key words: precautionary approach, MSY and ecosystem approach, plus Best available knowledge, quality assured, peer reviewed, stakeholders can attend, unbiased, keep up science partners, must be relevant and timely

#### **Nick Bailey, STECF its role and changing role**

He explained how STECF has gone from simply advising on TACs and endorsing the advice from science providers to providing support for the implementation and operation of the CFP and monitoring its outcomes. Two key areas of work are the Landing Obligation and the Multi annual management plans.

#### **Pim Wisser VisNed**

Fisheries science is not an exact science – it can change and it depends on the model. You can only see trends. Exact use of point figures suggests a fake reliability. Bandwidths are the best possible way and best possible use of reality. He argued for greater fisher-science-manager collaboration - good relationships are essential. Industry should be proved to be a trustworthy partner.

#### **Goncalo Carvalho NGO Marine Sciences and Cooperation Association**

The NGO he represents works to promote improvement of marine environment, sustainable fisheries, minimize impacts of several types of pollution. STECF and ICES – their work beyond doubt, peer reviewed, strong processes, give us full trust in what comes out. Overfishing continues, progress is slow, but we are not even half way towards reaching the CFP goals and MSY for all stocks by 2020. He argued to follow the scientific advice; it gives benefits, set the TACs in line with scientific advice.

There were **lots of questions** from the floor, then **answers** provided by the speakers. Asked about the ranges and fishing at Fmsy upper, **Eskild Kirkegaard** replied that if you stay within the range, you will be precautionary. ICES believes it has lived up to the objectives of giving advice consistent with re-building stocks to the above levels that can produce Fmsy

The Committee chair found the Hearing rich and informative; we need science but in fisheries it's not enough because it's a big, diverse and contradictory world. There's the social and human aspect also. We need to find a balance. Science yes, but also the need to take into account the fishermen and their lives. It's not easy and we'll try to continue to do that.....

- **Port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships:** The Commission presented its proposal to the committee. They want a harmonised cost recovery system for waste. On Fishing for litter – the aim is not to penalize those fishermen who bring litter ashore.
- **The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy:** The Commission presented this: it was well received.

Another hearing coming up: **“Implementation of the EMFF: achievements since 2014 and perspectives after 2020” 20 June 2018**

### **European Fisheries Control Agency news**

#### **The EFCA Advisory Board meeting on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb2018, Brussels**

Attached the report from the two BSAC members 

And a Power Point from the EFCA presenting its work in 2017 

Now waiting the final report from the EFCA

#### **Who’s rotating at EFCA?**

#### **Since 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the BSAC is alternate on the Administrative Board (SWWAC is the representative for all the ACs)**

The representative from the SWWAC informed:

- The rotation of the Advisory board representative on the EFCA Administrative Board was **not** discussed. This has been raised at previous meetings, with some of the AC representatives , including the BSAC proposing EFCA that there should be more than one AC representing the ACs on the Administrative Board. According to the EFCA Founding Regulation, the role of the AC representative at the Administrative Board is as observer and not member;
- On the item related to proposals for work of the Agency in 2018, the Executive Director made a specific proposal to strengthen the links and communications between the EFCA Advisory Board and the Administrative Board. [This was a recommendation already endorsed by the AB in October 2017 as a result of the 5-year performance review of the Agency made by an external consultancy company.
- The proposal made by the Executive Director was basically to set up the meetings of the Advisory Boards back-to-back with the ones of the Administrative Board. That would mean that the Advisory Board would meet the day before the Administrative Board to allow all AC representatives to exchange views and come up with specific proposals that could be conveyed by the AC representative on the following day. There was also a proposal to arrange a reception/cocktail in the evening with MS representatives to facilitate dialogues and information flows between both bodies.

The representative of DG MARE at the meeting seemed to be in conformity with this proposal.

#### **Sent to Advisory Board representatives: EFCA Privacy Statement**

EFCA has updated its PRIVACY STATEMENT for processing of personal data related to Management Members of the Administrative and Advisory Boards. It has been uploaded to the EFCA Website (link quoted below):

<https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Privacy%20statement%20for%20management%20of%20Administrative%20and%20Advisory%20Board%20members.pdf>

#### **Want to work at EFCA?**

[https://twitter.com/EU\\_Agencies\\_job?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email&iid=e28e058ff6fc4826be7f4ec609b5ad32&uid=726426381039636482&nid=244+272699403](https://twitter.com/EU_Agencies_job?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email&iid=e28e058ff6fc4826be7f4ec609b5ad32&uid=726426381039636482&nid=244+272699403)

## **News from other ACs**

### **The Pelagic AC and Brexit meeting to discuss the potential implications of BREXIT Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018, The Hague**

The Pelagic AC will organize a meeting to discuss the potential implications of BREXIT on the future functioning of the Advisory Councils on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Parkhotel, The Hague. Participation is restricted to 3 members per Advisory Council. The discussion will be global, i.e. focusing on general issues relevant for all ACs and not deal with specific fisheries/stocks. A detailed agenda will be distributed shortly. Registration deadline is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The PELAC Secretary has informed me that this meeting will probably not be relevant for Baltic members. BSAC ExCom has been informed. The meeting will look at the potential impacts BREXIT will have on the different ACs and already does have, e.g. UK members quitting their membership, PELAC “losing” half of its waters etc. Then they will discuss how this will impact the ACs and what can be done about it. As preparation for a BREXIT meeting organized by the Pelagic AC in April we have prepared a short survey to get a better idea of how people feel about BREXIT in relation to the Advisory Councils. Filling in the survey takes approximately 5 to 10 minutes and we would highly appreciate your participation. To go to the survey please follow this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PLBYCM>

Please note that your responses and identity are completely anonymous and cannot be related to you in any way. If you wish to receive further information about the survey or if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Verena Ohms. [v.ohms@pelagic-ac.org](mailto:v.ohms@pelagic-ac.org)

### **North Sea Advisory Council March newsletter**

<https://mailchi.mp/2ca660741811/nsac-monthly-newsletter-march-2018?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email&iid=9a383670d266441dad3dbf29fdb3c9e5&uid=726426381039636482&nid=244+281088008>

## **Other meetings and news**

### **Marine Stewardship Council and Aquaculture Stewardship Council annual meeting 19th April 2018 Copenhagen**

An early warning of this meeting from 9.00 to 16.00 under the headlines of fisheries, sustainability and environment. More information and programme to follow.

### **The Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation: annual General Assembly Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Vejle**

The Danish fisheries minister Karen Ellemann will make a presentation. Commission Director H el ene Clark, dealing with fisheries policy will also be taking part. The BSAC chair and Secretary have been invited to attend.

### **The BONUS-HELCOM stakeholder conference on Tuesday 6 November 2018**

To be held at the Park Inn by Radisson Copenhagen Airport will foremost utilise the results of the BONUS projects (many of which are now nearing completion) in HELCOM work – and beyond – as well as jointly identify gaps to fill in for the future. The conference will also offer a platform to enhance further synergies across the region, Europe and wider.

Drawing from the achievements and lessons learned from the simultaneously in 2007 established HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan – the pioneering programme to restore the good ecological status of the Baltic Sea – and BONUS – a regional marine research and development programme – the conference is set to add value to continued cooperation in the Baltic Sea region as well as other sea basins. See here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/BONUS-HELCOM-conference>

- **HELCOM**

There's so much more news and activity from HELCOM: go to [www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

**After the HELCOM Ministerial meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Brussels:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Read about new commitments for the Baltic marine environment.

<http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/HELCOM-agreement-reached-on-next-steps-for-a-healthy-Baltic-Sea.aspx>

The entire ministerial declaration {61 paragraphs} is here:

<http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/ministerial-declarations/2018-brussels/>

**Maritime activities in the Baltic Sea assessed in new report**

**PRESS RELEASE 9 MARCH 2018** – *After two years of work, HELCOM today releases a comprehensive assessment of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea. The 250 page report covers a wide range human activities at sea, from commercial maritime traffic to leisure boating and from fisheries to hazardous submerged objects.*

The activities addressed include operational and accidental pollution from maritime traffic, fisheries, aquaculture, offshore energy production, cables and pipelines, submerged hazardous objects, and leisure boating. The report makes use of the regional HELCOM Automatic Identification System (AIS) data, including high-resolution information on vessel movements in the entire sea basin since 2005. The extensive data is especially visible in the chapters related to maritime traffic and fisheries. Find it here:

<http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/Maritime-activities-in-the-Baltic-Sea-assessed-in-new-report.aspx>

The GIS materials and code underlying the assessment can be accessed at:

- AIS Explorer: <http://maps.helcom.fi/website/AISexplorer/>
- HELCOM Map and Data service, e.g. [AIS Density, all ship types 2016](#) and [AIS Fishing shipping density, 2016](#)
- GitHub: <https://github.com/helcomsecretariat/AIS-data-processing-for-statistics-and-maps>

**The ninth Meeting of the project for the development of the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II 9-2018), 9-10 April 2018, Tallinn, Estonia**

The work to finalise the HOLAS II assessment of the Baltic continues. This meeting continues on the updates of the sections of the report. A couple of documents can be mentioned:

- Assessment of commercial fish
- Marine litter assessment

**HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 18-2018), Berlin, Germany, 16-17 April 2018**

GEAR will be coordinating and informing on matters related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach and related policies. There's some stuff from OSPAR, work to deal with species biodiversity indicators for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and HOLAS II.

**Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018), which will be convened on 14-18 May 2018, in Klaipeda, Lithuania.**

There's a monitoring and assessment session, a nature conservation session and a joint session. Can't see anything specific fisheries, but there's a lot on monitoring guidelines and updates of them, updating core indicators, the "State of the Baltic Sea" report, work on marine protected areas, birds (migrating) and updating the HELCOM checklist/red list.

**The 8th meeting of the group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 8-2018)** on 23rd-24th May 2018 in Warsaw. This is the one that the BSAC usually follows. The BSAC rapporteur will report from the meeting.

**HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2018 oil and chemical spill recovery exercise in the Baltic Sea 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**

The exercise will be conducted in archipelago outside Karlskrona, southeast of Sweden. It's planned and organized with support from the BALEX DELTA 2018 EU project. Visit official webpage for additional information and to follow latest developments <https://balexdelta2018.helcom.fi/>.

**EFARO, the European organisation of the Directors of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research - the reformed CFP: An analysis of what went wrong what went well and how should the next CFP look like Thursday 24th May 2018, Brussels**

EFARO, the European organisation of the Directors of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations, is organising its annual meeting in Brussels from 23-25 May 2018. On the second day of their meeting will be a public event. This year's event on the 24th of May will have as theme: *The reformed CFP: An analysis of what went wrong what went well and how should the next CFP look like*. The official invitation with an overview of the programme with the topics and the invited speakers is extended to all and is on the BSAC website, together with link for registration here:

To register please click [here](#)

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFARO-Seminar>. EFARO has asked the BSAC Secretariat to take part. The BSAC Secretariat WILL take part.

**Blue Growth Strategy for Cities & Ports 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Brussels**

On land, space and water are becoming scarce commodities. The planet consists of 71% water, with 95% of it in oceans and seas. A "blue revolution" is needed to feed the world by 2050. The Blue Growth strategy is to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. The BSAC Secretariat (and all AC Secretariats) has been personally invited to share experience, best case scenarios and future perspectives.

**Other information/reading**

**LIFE: news from the deck February**

It reports on:

Small-scale fishers gain increasing influence in the Baltic Sea Advisory Council as FSK (Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery) from Denmark is the fourth LIFE member organisation to join the General Assembly Mediterranean small-scale fisheries: time for a state of the art of decision-making process

Other news from around the EU, News from members, New members on board, Press review. See here:

<http://lifeplatform.eu/news-deck-february-2018/>

**LIFE: Executive Director Jeremy Percy wrote to Danish Minister Karen Ellemann and urges immediate action about landing obligation with respect to Danish fisheries**

[http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Percy\\_Letter\\_-Baltic-management-DK.pdf](http://lifeplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Percy_Letter_-Baltic-management-DK.pdf)

**EAA published Angling in Marine Protected Areas – a Win-Win-Win for anglers, the environment and society**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/12260/angling-in-marine-protected-areas-a-win-win-win-for-anglers-the-environment-and-society.html>

And here is the ten point position paper, which recommends access for anglers to protected zones, whilst at the same time observing environmental objectives, plus a bit of background on MPAs and legislation, information on control and enforcement the benefits of angling in MPAs.:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/positions/marine-protected-areas-2018.html>

**FARNET news: Fisheries Area Network**

FARNET reports on examples of the **Good Practices**. The following examples have recently been posted:

**Short story:** *Boosting a seaweed business on the Irish offshore Islands (West FLAG, Ireland)*

West FLAG supports business development among some of the most marginalised and remote communities

in the country, including offshore islands and native Irish speaking communities where a seaweed company has grown from one to four employees.

**Short story: *Crushed shells and 3D printing* (North Sardinia FLAG, Italy)**

In Olbia, the northern area of Sardinia, the shells of mussels are no longer considered waste. With the help of the FLAG, local students and teachers are using crushed shells to create useful objects of all sorts, from moulds created by 3D printing.

**Short story: *Detecting toxic microalgae* (Mediterranean Pyrenees FLAG, France)**

Oyster farms on the Leucate lagoon are regularly affected by toxic phytoplankton, leading to economic losses. In search of a solution, shellfish farmers teamed up with a biotech start-up to test a new, quick and easy way to detect toxic marine microalgae and anticipate its proliferation.

**Project: *Bisset's Fish Van* (East Lothian, UK)**

Local fish delivered fresh to the doorstep as fisherman boosts the family business through direct sales from FLAG funded van.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/>

**Greenpeace headline in Danish translates to: Danish fishing vessels from Gilleleje caught trawling in the Sound: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Lindsay Keenan informed of the reporting by Greenpeace on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018, according to which Greenpeace has been active in the Sound (Øresund), the strait separating Zealand (Denmark) from Scania (Sweden). Their reporting concerns a ban on trawling in the area, introduced 80 years ago [and out of consideration for maritime transport and safety in the area]. Greenpeace informs that it has been carrying out surveillance in the area and reported on the evidence it has been gathering with respect to Danish fishing vessels. It has provided footage and photos available here:

<http://media.greenpeace.org/collection/27MZIFJXURJ01>

The original Press release in Danish can be found here:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/denmark/da/press/pressemeddelelser/Gilleleje-kuttere-afsloret-i-trawlfiskeri-i-Oresund/>

Lindsay Keenan also provided the link to an article in the English speaking Copenhagen Post:

<http://cphpost.dk/news/danish-fishermen-trawling-illegally-in-oresund.html>

**The Danish Fishing News** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 refers to a local Danish newspaper report on two trawlers which were seen four times in February trawling in the sound, otherwise closed to trawlers. It reports that Greenpeace has been observing the fisheries and has handed over its material to the control authorities.

Danish fisheries minister Karen Ellemann has provided a written answer and informed that she's asked the Danish authorities to come up with proposals on how to give more priority to control efforts in the Sound. She'll discuss with parliamentary committee members (TV 2 /Lorry 21<sup>st</sup> March)

**The WWF Baltic Sea Action Scorecard**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The WWF Baltic Sea Action Plan Scorecard 2018 assesses the progress by HELCOM contracting countries towards their Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) commitments. Download its 36 page report here:

[http://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/?324530/WWF-Baltic-Sea-Action-Plan-Scorecard-2018](http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?324530/WWF-Baltic-Sea-Action-Plan-Scorecard-2018)

**How old are you now: age reading fish: a new tool to make the age reading (by otoliths) more streamlined: SmartDots is the name of the new tool**

ICES newsletter March 2018

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Age-reading-just-got-smarter.aspx>

**The EU fish market in 2017**

A very interesting ppt presentation on the above-mentioned subject.

The entire report is available in 5 languages (ES, FR, EN, DE, IT) on the EUMOFA website:

<http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/108446/The+EU+fish+market+2017.pdf/80acad95-907f-4b90-b2a7-1086964df3d9>

### **EUMOFA and its February edition**

Between January–December 2017 and January–December 2016, Belgium, Latvia and Norway grew in first-sales volume.

In the same period, first-sale value and volume declined in Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom.

In November 2017, the consumption of fresh fishery and aquaculture products increased over November 2016 in both volume and value in Denmark, Germany and Sweden. In November for the past three years, household consumption of fresh fish products has been below the annual average in both volume and value in Denmark (–20% and –21%, respectively), and Sweden (–14% and –16%).

<http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/110994/MH+2+2018.pdf>

### **Girls power: Women in maritime fishing**

A NEW PROJECT entitled **REDMAR II** aims to **promote the employability of women with maritime-fishing training, generating experiences for them in fishing vessels**. This project is led by the **Fundación para la Pesca y el Marisqueo – FUNDAMAR** and has the collaboration of the **Organización de Productores de Buques Congeladores de Merlúcidos, Cefalópodos y Especies Varias – OPPC-3. REDMAR II**, with the support of the Biodiversity Foundation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, in the framework of PLEAMAR Programme of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. In addition to promoting experiences on board in fishing vessels for qualified women, it will seek the **consolidation of the REDMAR** network established in 2013. This network connects different entities linked to the fishing sector, to promote equal opportunities between men and women within it. You can join them in this network, collaborate in the dissemination of the project's objectives and results and at the same time contribute to generate equal opportunities within the sector. **To join the REDMAR network contact FUNDAMAR (+34 986 433 844 Ext 8 or [fundamar@fundamar.org](mailto:fundamar@fundamar.org))**.

### **German and Danish spring herring fishing season going well**

The Danish Fishing News reported 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 from the fishing vessel H45 Lone that herring catches have been good in the western Baltic. Fischerblatt in its February edition reports on good prices for the spring season herring. Both regret the reduction in quotas compared to 2017. Fischerblatt also reports on a successful “Green Week” event in January: it attracted lots of visitors; in this year there was a special event with the Federal Ministry taking part, and presentations from the Thünen Institute and the German Angling Association. Read (in German) about the herring fishery here:

[http://www.deutscher-fischerei-verband.de/teaser\\_pressemitteilung3.html](http://www.deutscher-fischerei-verband.de/teaser_pressemitteilung3.html)

### **Then to seals**

Alex Olsen has sent an article from the **Swedish newspaper Sydsvenskan 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**. The fishermen are raising the alarm about sealworm: the cod they are catching off the south coast are full of liverworms. Some cod have over 300 worms in their liver. Nearly the entire cod stock along the coastline is affected. Find the link to the article (in Swedish) here:

<https://www.sydsvenskan.se/2018-02-28/fiskare-slar-larm-varenda-torsk-vi-fangar-ar-full-av-salmask>

### **The Swedish Fishermen PO on a project to deal with seals: using seines instead of gillnets**

The Swedish Fishermen PO have received funding to run a project to develop alternative seal free gear to carry out small scale coastal fishery in the Baltic. The aim is to develop a small scale seine to fish cod. They will be studying methods used in Norway where they operate a profitable and modern fishery along the coast and in the fjords. Interested? Contact Peter Ronelöv Olsson [peter@sfpo.se](mailto:peter@sfpo.se)  
The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences is working on a project “Seals and fish” Read more here (in Swedish)

<http://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/fiskeprojekt-for-att-slipa-salskador?category=news>

**Europêche on the vessel monitoring study – they might be all over the place, but they're not always fishing: Global fishing footprint study presents artificial results**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/e94810c0-fa88-499b-984c-1f78ae32367f>

All about marine litter, plastics and the like

**Plastics from The Economist**

The known unknowns of plastic pollution

So far, it seems less bad than other kinds of pollution (about which less fuss is made)

Warning: this link might not work, because it comes from a subscriber to The Economist:

<https://www.economist.com/news/international/21737498-so-far-it-seems-less-bad-other-kinds-pollution-about-which-less-fuss-made?frsc=dg%7Ce>

**More on plastics and the real culprits** (from 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017!!!) fishing gear and nets? No, it's all about bottles, cups, butts, packages and straws

<http://www.seas-at-risk.org/17-marine-litter/801-how-to-cut-ocean-plastic-pollution-start-with-these-billions-of-bottles-straws-and-coffee-cups.html>

**Cleaning the oceans: from Clean Nordic Oceans network, published at CNOgear.org.**

The BSAC is part of the Clean Nordic Oceans network. They've started sending us stuff. Clean Nordic Oceans is making an article series to map the status about marine litter and recycling from the fishing industry in the Nordic countries.

- **Norway:** with an overview over measures taken in Norway and views on important areas in the future. The article is In Norwegian and in English.

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/article-series-status-norway>

- **The Handbook on Marine Environment Protection** is an e-book <http://www.springer.com/de/book/9783319601540>. The print-version will follow in just a few weeks. It is the first one which covers the whole topic from the scientific and legal perspective; nearly 70 authors from different countries are involved....
- **“Keep Norway Beautiful”** – conference had a Nordic profile with Norwegian, Nordic and International speakers. Have a look at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/keep-norway-beautiful-conference>

- **Norway's largest Fishermen's organization** will increase their efforts to reduce littering the ocean. Have a look at: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/norway-s-largest-fishermens-organization-has-decided-to-step-up-the-fight-against-littering-the-ocean>

- **An Article from Plastix** about plastic, recycling and the way forward.

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/plastix-on-plastix-pollution-and-the-way-forward>

- **Marine litter in the Arctic** where marine plastic litter is an ongoing and increasing problem. Much of the litter is probably transported from denser populated areas in Europe and beyond, by the sea currents. This emphasizes the importance of both local and regional cooperation, also for marine litter from the fishing industry.

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/plastic-in-the-european-arctic>

- **Iceland: measures taken in Iceland** and the knowledge gap in regard to Marine Litter in Icelandic

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/article-series-status-iceland>

- **Clean Nordic Oceans has started to plan a workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.** The workshop will be separated into two parts, where the first part will discuss "The loss of fishing gear and ghost fishing" and the second part will discuss recycling and receiving plans for discarded fishing gears. The date and more information will come later. Link to the event: <http://cnogear.org/calendar/clean-nordic-oceans-workshop-in-october>
- **Ghost fishing in Finland:** the status, challenges, and the future in Finnish fisheries in regard to ghost fishing.

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/english/article-series-status-finland>

- **A new initiative from the Danish government aiming at reducing marine litter, in this case extruded polystyrene.**

Link: <http://cnogear.org/news/nordiske-sprak/danmark-unders%C3%B8ger-polystyren-forurening-i-havet>

### **EU Maritime and FISH on plastics** 13th March

New research suggests that in #OurOcean there are more #microplastics than we thought (via The Guardian [www.theguardian.com/.../microplastic-pollution-in-oceans-is-f...](http://www.theguardian.com/.../microplastic-pollution-in-oceans-is-f...))

These tiny pieces of plastic become unwelcome & dangerous guests in our food chain  
What's the EU doing to fight marine plastic pollution?

Discover the #PlasticsStrategy here: [ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic\\_waste.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic_waste.htm)

### **Europêche: European fishermen taking the lead in the fight against marine litter 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

<http://europeche.chil.me/attachment/6b21ac34-da9d-4ad9-bc8a-c7e2ce3a604d>

### **Ocean plastic could treble in decade**

Foresight Future of the Sea Report for the UK government: there are also opportunities to cash in on the "ocean economy". BBC News 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

[http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-43477233?ocid=global\\_bbc\\_email\\_20032018\\_top+news+stories](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-43477233?ocid=global_bbc_email_20032018_top+news+stories)

### **Marelitt news March 2018**

- Visiting a harbour in Sweden to find out about how they sort and deal with plastic waste
- A national experts workshop on tagging fishing gear
- What the Marelitt project has done in terms of ghost net collection in 2017
- What they've got planned for 2018
- What Estonia is up to in terms of assessing how to receive and handle
- Planned upcoming workshops

<http://www.anpdm.com/newsletterweb/45425046714944584378444B59/42455B4079434A5C4A7342425B4071>

### **Marelitt Baltic Project workshop on methodology and practical planning, 19-20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Warsaw.**

**The aims of the workshop** were to summarise the results of dragging and diving operations, to agree on final methodologies for derelict fishing gear search and retrieval, to agree on the common method for collecting data and reporting from actions at sea. (**report from Ewa Milewska attached**) ./.

Other stuff

### **Eurofish magazine February 2018 has three articles to name:**

1. The quality of byproducts and their use: the fish industry is becoming more innovative in its use of fish by-products for human and animal consumption

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

Axelborg, Aveltørx 3, 6<sup>th</sup> floor | 1609 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 20128949 | [www.bsac.dk](http://www.bsac.dk)

2. Invasive alien species: the EU is enlarging its list of alien species contained in the EU Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species: going onto that list will be the Round goby
3. An article on the need for better use of low-value fish and trash fish: only a tiny part of the world's available fish species is used for human consumption - processors are slowly realizing that underestimated resources can become attractive food products.

### **Swedish Institute on Third Country Participation in the Baltic Sea Region**

Is your organisation participating in an EU project or a flagship within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region? Would you like to co-operate with countries outside the EU? If you are a Swedish organisation, you can apply for funding from the Swedish Institute to establish and develop networks in this area!

<https://si.se/en/apply/funding-grants/third-country-participation-baltic-sea-region/>

### **Can't resist it: Brexit news 20th March 2018 Relief about the transition for the next two years: status quo**

[https://fodevarewatch.dk/Landbrug\\_Fiskeri/article10429598.ece](https://fodevarewatch.dk/Landbrug_Fiskeri/article10429598.ece).

EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier and the British Brexit minister David Davis announced that both sides have agreed on a transition phase of 21 months. So the Brits will still have access to the EU's internal market and will continue to follow EU law after they officially leave the EU on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This is reported as welcome news for a fisherman operating in British waters and for the Danish company Danish Crown, which has slaughter houses in the UK. It gives more everyone time and will hopefully give momentum to the negotiations.

### **Scottish fishermen feel betrayed: FiskerForum 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<http://www.fiskerforum.dk/en/news/b/relative-stability-to-remain-through-transition-period>