

Dear members,

Please remember, this is our newsletter. Apart from the BSAC meetings, information on any other meetings does not mean an invitation.

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

#### **The year's coming to an end: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**Please will you send your outstanding travel claims before that date or regrettably, they won't be dealt with or paid.**

#### **The updated BSAC members' report from the ICES benchmarking part 2: now with salmon and cod!**

**Attached ./.**

#### **A report from the BSAC representatives to the meeting with MEP GABRIEL MATO 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 about the technical measures dossier.**

**Attached ./.**

#### **The BSAC-BALTFISH-EFCA Workshop on the implementation of the Landing Obligation 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Hamburg**

Fisheries control authority delegates from the Baltic Sea Member States (Baltfish, chaired by Germany), the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC), representatives from the European Commission (DG Mare), a member of the European Parliament and representatives from the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) met in Hamburg on 9th March 2017 at a Joint Workshop to examine the state of play for the implementation of the landing obligation with respect to the major commercial species of the Baltic Sea: cod, salmon, herring, sprat and plaice

**The press release from the workshop and a letter to Alain Cadec and Gabriel Mato, plus the presentations are on the BSAC website:**

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BALTFISH-BSAC-EFCA-Workshop-on-implementation-of-t>

There's a two page article in the Danish newspaper Fishing News from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 on the work reported on at the Workshop by Jordan Feekings (DTU Aqua): "Much less bycatch with new gears --- the new research project between DTU Aqua, Aalborg University and the Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation" Project Fast-Track. <http://www.fast-track.dk/>

#### **Last meeting of the current BSAC year: Sub-group on the ecosystem based management 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

This meeting is confirmed to take place at the Park Inn by Radisson, Copenhagen airport Engvej 171. The deadline for registering has passed. Those signed up will now receive confirmation. <http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Sub-Group-on-Ecosystem-Based-Management>

Ulf Bergstöm from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences: was invited to talk about seals. Unfortunately unavailable this time round. His replacement will be Karl Lungström (tbc). A BSAC member (thank you) has shared an article from Våra Fiskevatten, the Swedish water owners magazine. It's about Ulf Bergström's research and that there will be a scientific article published later in the spring, with professor Sture Hansson as first author. The article refers to research into coastal ecosystems and focuses on cormorants, reporting on the effects that they are having in terms of eutrophication.

Link to BSAC meeting website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Sub-Group-on-Ecosystem-Based-Management>

**The article attached ./.**

There's also more (in Swedish) The Interactions between Cormorants and Wild Fish Populations. Analytical Methods and Applications: to find out more about how cormorants, by eating large amounts of small fish affect other fish populations:

<http://havet.nu/?d=186&id=54642095>

#### **The new BSAC year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017**

#### **ExCom and General Assembly on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Stockholm**

BSAC members: PLEASE sign up, book your journey and hotel

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

Agendas to follow according to usual deadlines.

#### **From the North Sea Advisory Council on technical measures**

Following recent discussions, the North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC) has issued this paper in advance of publishing an advice paper on the Technical Conservation Regulation. The NSAC explains that this is in order to relay immediate concerns and observations regarding the development of the Regulation. Full NSAC advice on this subject will be issued as soon as possible.

<http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/05-1617-20170217-Commentary-Tech-Cons-Reg.pdf>

#### **From the MEDAC on interpreting**

The MEDAC has shared with the secretariats a letter to DG Mare with a request for modifications in the accounting of interpretation and translation costs – Item E in the Advisory Council financial budget. It requests that extra funding for interpretation can be accounted separately in the annual budget of those Advisory Councils that have to deal with more than 4 working languages.

### **BALTFISH/Member States**

#### **The BALTFISH Forum meeting will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. No agenda is available yet.**

The Presidency has kindly offered the BSAC a meeting room for an internal meeting in the morning to prepare for the BALTFISH Forum. 8 BSAC representatives are invited to take part. The ratio of interests between the fisheries and other interest group will be observed. ExCom members have been invited to send requests to the Secretariat to take part. A separate agenda for this meeting will be drafted.

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

#### **From the EFCA Advisory Board meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017:** attached is the report by the BSAC chair **./.**

The EFCA report will follow, once it is finalised and approved by those who took part.

#### **The EFCA holds its next Administrative Board meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The NWWAC is currently representing all the ACs at the Admin Board. The ExCom has been informed and invited to propose items for the agenda.

#### **News from Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries:**

The College has decided to appoint Ms H el ene Clark as Director for MARE.C "Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions" from 16th March 2017. H el ene left the position as Director for Resources, Planning and Communication in DG Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion.

Here is the updated version of the **organisation chart**:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/about\\_us/mission\\_statement/organisation-chart\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/about_us/mission_statement/organisation-chart_en.pdf)

#### **The Our Ocean 2017 conference 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Malta**

The high-level Our Ocean 2017 conference will be hosted by the EU in Malta on 5 and 6 October 2017. After the United States of America and Chile, the European Union is proud to host the 4th edition of the "Our

Ocean" conference, at the initiative of High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella.

On 5-6 October 2017, global leaders are invited in Malta to commit to new actions to ensure sustainable fisheries, to mitigate climate change impacts, to announce new marine protected areas and to fight marine pollution: <http://www.ourocean2017.org/> Four areas of action: Marine protected areas, Climate change, Sustainable fisheries, Marine pollution.

A preparatory meeting was held on 14 February 2017. It was agreed by the chair, vice chair and honorary chair not to send a BSAC members to this meeting, but to wait and see what happens with the conference. We wait wait for the outcome of the preparatory meeting to learn more.

The LDAC Executive Secretary took part at the meeting. The Commission asked participants (in particular the industry representatives) to provide ideas on possible commitments on sustainable fishing that could be announced at the Conference, This event will have an "American-style" format of 5 minutes succession of short interventions at the Plenary Session. The agenda appears to be very much shaped by the Communications team of DG MARE with special emphasis on social media targeted to raise public awareness of EU initiatives in the field of fisheries governance. The LDAC delegates and several participants expressed concern that fisheries policy and sustainable management of fishing resources seemed to be marginalised, with other topics such as marine pollution and blue growth/economy at the heart of this Conference as they attract more attention from general public. Attached is the concept paper provided by the meeting conveners. The LDAC is thinking of developing a more developed and meaningful advice that can be subsequently used for drawing specific recommendations and initiatives at several international fora dealing with this topic other than Our Oceans Conference itself (namely UN Conference on Implementation of SDG14, UNCTAD meetings with stakeholders on trade and food safety, BBNJ, etc.). A next meeting is envisaged to be held in April 2017 and the interested stakeholders are expected to submit their specific proposals by June at the latest. A concept paper on this conference is **attached ./.**

**And the film "My Oceans is Our Ocean":**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3UII9TbvUk>

### **From PECH Newsletter: Trawler – February 2017 prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries.**

The PECH committee publishes a monthly newsletter called "The Trawler". There's updated information on the committee's work and current issues in the fisheries world. Also an extensive list of the studies that the Policy department regularly prepares and information of forthcoming meetings of the advisory councils and other international events. The February edition referred to i.a. the planned hearing on the development of biomass of fish stocks, the priorities of the Maltese Presidency and an update on the implementation of the Landing Obligation:

<https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/2b43784a-4637-4b35-ba92-d38c4744a03d/Trawler%20February.pdf>

### **Management of Fishing activities in Natura 2000 areas, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, Brussels**

The Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament is organising a public hearing on the "Management of fishing activities in Natura 2000 areas.

A committee is permitted to organise a hearing with experts, where this is considered essential to its work on a particular subject. Hearings can also be held jointly by two or more committees. Most committees organise regular hearings, as they allow them to hear from experts and hold discussions on the key issues. On this page you will find all the available information relating to committee hearings, including programmes and contributions from speakers.

### **Latest news - Next meeting - Committee on Fisheries**

The next PECH Committee meeting will take place on:

- **Wednesday 22 March** from 9:00 to 12:30 and 15:00 to 18:30
- **Thursday, 23 March** from 9:00 to 12:30 in room **Altiero Spinelli (ASP) A 1 G2** in **Brussels**.

**From that Hearing on biomass 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017: “Information on the state and development of the biomass of fish stocks managed by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)”.**

The presentations that were made:

Ken Patterson, Commission, DG Mare: The CFP Reform on 2013 has been a major step forward for the use of MSY. The Commission is aware of Fishing mortality and Biomass commitments. They have been reporting with respect to MSY on F, but Bmsy estimates have not been available. He gave information on why reliable biomass estimates are not yet available and why they are not as stable as Fmsy. When they are available, the Commission will publish such information.

Rainer Froese, Centre for Ocean Research: reported on 397 stocks from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea and Mediterranean over the period 2013-2015. Work from 2016 has focused on trying to estimate biomasses. He highlighted the percentage of stocks that are exploited sustainably, that fulfill CFP requirements etc. Critical of exploitation at 0.95 of Fmsy. 0.5 to 0.8 of Fmsy brings about more or less the same profitability.

John Pope, NRC Europe: explaining that a biomass is a bit like a bank account. He gave a simple explanation of the law of biomass targets. Three important reference points: Blim, Bpa and Bmsy: the latter extrapolated from models, so is only as good as the assumptions made. Real life is more complicated and one major concern is the multi-species concern. He referred to the MareFrame project, developing a simple analogue with multi-species and multi-fleet interactions.

Michael Andersen: referred to the general trends of the stocks in the North Sea, with things in general going quite well. Moreover, things in nature rarely go in straight lines. The only “stock” going badly is the fishermen. He called for a more flexible management, less focus on targets, more on trends and less on the distance from the targets. The benefits from reaching targets are hypothetical and have to be balanced with the actual costs of getting there.

Markus Knigge, PEW: gave his thoughts on biomass and acknowledged the Parliament’s work in getting MSY enshrined in EU law. Aware of the timescale of 2015 and 2020 and the legislation to build stocks above Bmsy. About 50% of stocks are fished above MSY, but this is going down. Referred to the Baltic Management plan and that flexibility allows fishing above Fmsy: sees this as a watering down of the objectives and of allowing stocks to get to above Bmsy.

**The Committee has made available the following presentations (not from all speakers):**

Presentation by Rainer Froese

[https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/083a402c-c015-4457-8f7a-372e044a3d05/Rainer%20Froese\\_GEOMAR\\_presentation.pdf](https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/083a402c-c015-4457-8f7a-372e044a3d05/Rainer%20Froese_GEOMAR_presentation.pdf)

Presentation by John Pope

[https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/c2c1c292-fc16-4852-b6d8-1c19cf20d54d/John%20Pope\\_MAREFRAME\\_presentation.pdf](https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/c2c1c292-fc16-4852-b6d8-1c19cf20d54d/John%20Pope_MAREFRAME_presentation.pdf)

Presentation by Michael Andersen

[https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/e692bca9-e555-4454-90e3-59f9031e206c/Michael%20Andersen\\_Danish%20Fishermen\\_presentation.pdf](https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/e692bca9-e555-4454-90e3-59f9031e206c/Michael%20Andersen_Danish%20Fishermen_presentation.pdf)

**NOTE:** Conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures will be voted by the Fisheries Committee on 12-13/07/2017 and in the Plenary in September 2017.

**Press release, agenda and presentations from the event: (Thank you Jan Kappel)**

**“Sustainable fisheries management and recreational sea fisheries: socio-economic value, data collection and data use in EU and US management”, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

The focus at this seminar chaired by **MEPs Werner Kuhn and Marco Affronte** in the European Parliament on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March focused mainly on recreational sea angling - the biggest of the recreational segments measured in number of participants and economic impact. Europe’s eight to ten million recreational sea anglers spend on average about 1,000 EUR annually per person on their activity, an estimated total of 8-10 billion EUR. Read here:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/10388/wanted-from-the-eu-more-and-better-data-on-recreational-fisheries-for-a-sustainable-and-prosper-recreational-fisheries-sector.html>

**The Commission announces 2<sup>nd</sup> International Maritime Spatial Planning Conference, 15-17 March, 2017, Paris.**

The main objectives of the conference are to explore how MSP can be used to address global challenges (climate change, ABNJ, poverty, safety and sufficiency of food for a growing population), explore its potential for ocean based industry, its potential for boosting jobs, growth and innovation and reflect on how to accelerate the process of MSP worldwide.

[http://www.msp2017.paris/?lang=en&newsletter\\_id=114&utm\\_campaign=MARE%20&utm\\_content=Second%20International%20Conference%20on%20Maritime%20Spatial%20Planning%20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mare\\_newsletter](http://www.msp2017.paris/?lang=en&newsletter_id=114&utm_campaign=MARE%20&utm_content=Second%20International%20Conference%20on%20Maritime%20Spatial%20Planning%20&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mare_newsletter)

**An ICES Workshop on Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Atlantic Salmon Stock Dynamics (WKCCISAL). At ICES in Copenhagen, Denmark 27–28 March 2017.**

This is an invitation from ICES, not the BSAC. ACOM resolutions can be found from here: [ToRs](#)

**EFARO Invitation Seminar 17 May 2017 Brussels "Smart data collection for the future monitoring of the sea"**

EFARO (European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations), is an association composed of the Directors of the main European Research Institutes involved in Fisheries and Aquaculture research. The aim is to achieve greater cohesion and coordination of Community fisheries Research and Development. They’re holding a seminar in Brussels to deal with data collection in Marine science and smart data use. The invitation is to a large group of people from industry, maritime sectors, policy makers, marine organisations, NGOs and the wider public.

See programme here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/EFARO-Seminar-Smart-data-collection-for-the-futu>

Contact [www.efaro.eu](http://www.efaro.eu)

**And coming up: Conference: The Water Framework Directive – Lifeline for European Waters, 22 March 2017, 13:30-15:00, European Parliament, Brussels**

[www.eaa-europe.org/european-parliament-forum/ep-recfishing-forum-events/](http://www.eaa-europe.org/european-parliament-forum/ep-recfishing-forum-events/)

MEP Ulrike Rodust, MEP Frank Bogovic, MEP Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy and MEP Linnéa Engström, will be chairing a conference on “The Water Framework Directive – Lifeline for European Waters” organised by the European Parliament Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment, with the support of the European Anglers Alliance (EAA), the European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA) and the WWF.

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

**EUROFISH: the approved report of the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the EUROFISH Governing Council**



Eurofish held the 16th session of its annual Governing Council on 26 and 27 January 2017. The event brought together representatives from the Eurofish member countries (Albania, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, and Turkey) along with many observers from a number of embassies and partner organisations to discuss and approve the organisation's activities in 2016 and the planned work programme for 2017. The FAO, with whom Eurofish has a close relationship, was represented by Victoria Chomo from FAO headquarters in Rome and Eva Kovacs from FAO REU in Budapest. They have sent the report from the meeting. Also sent is a very interesting presentation "Trends in consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products in Europe". It shows trends in consumption in the different parts of Europe. It was carried out in 2016 in all 28 EU member states. The aim was to improve understanding of the internal EU market for fishery and aquaculture products and providing key information, so market participants can adapt strategies to changing needs.

Contact Secretariat if you want the Eurofish report (16 pages) or the presentation (36 pages), now available after final approval.

Also a presentation made at the Governing Council by the FAO representative on New market measures to insure sustainable seafood trade:

<http://gc.eurofish.dk/FAO-Market-measures-to-ensure-sustainable-seafood-trade.pdf>

### **The DiscardLess Conference 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Clara Ulrich (DTU Aqua) has informed the BSAC that it was a successful meeting. People were very satisfied with it, it had a very diverse attendance and just a right balance between groups and origins, so people were very active in participation, with intense discussions but in a positive atmosphere. A report from Clara Ulrich will follow ASAP.

### **DiscardLess Newsletter number 3**

This newsletter summarises the main results achieved so far after 20 months of research. These are presented according to the various themes and topics which form the backbone of the project.

[http://www.discardless.eu/discardless\\_newsletter](http://www.discardless.eu/discardless_newsletter)

### **The Marine Stewardship Council Denmark Annual Meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Copenhagen**

The MSC has now been around for 20 years. It has 160 staff in 15 locations in the world. They can point to 312 certified fisheries, 68 in assessment and all this in 38 different countries of the world. Reference made to certification of some of the pelagic fisheries in the Baltic, now that the Management Plan for the Baltic has been adopted. Statistics were shown on what percentage of different fish and shellfish species groups have been certified. DNA testing is done to make sure that their products are correctly labelled. One concern is to make sure that MSC is available to all fisheries – including in the developing world. Following on from the MSC is the Aquaculture Stewardship Council and there was a presentation of the work down so far and how far they have got, plus the similarities and differences with MSC. It is going very fast with the increase in the number of ASC certifications. There was information given on the marketing and communication work done by MSC: thinking innovatively in terms of what sort of campaigns to run. A very comprehensive consumer analysis was carried out in Denmark in 2016. It showed that 10% of consumers would pay more for sustainable products. Fish is perceived positively in terms of: freshness, taste, health and safe to eat. But when you get down to a survey of Danes and the food they eat, i.e. shellfish and fish, things get to be a bit more challenging. In 2016 only 12% of evening meals contained fish, despite all the positive perceptions of fish. So there's a long way to go to get people to eat more fish. Fish has got to be seen as fresh, healthy, natural, quick to prepare and local. A challenge is also to out-compete meat: meat has greater importance than fish when it comes to "home-made/prepared" meals, i.e. prepared in the home. The MSC will be carrying out its 2017 campaign, targeting the same sectors as in 2016: families and women 30+. And there will be a global MSC campaign: "Keep it wild", plus trying to simplify the blue MSC logo and attracting the eye to the "blue fish". Finally, a presentation from IKEA Denmark, explaining the challenge to reach many people in a sustainable way, focusing on sustainable life at home, resources and energy independence and creating a

better lift for folk. MSC and ASC fish fits perfectly into the IKEA template. Whilst the IKEA is the one that guarantees the sustainability of its products, seeing MSC/ASC in the IKEA restaurants also shows the consumer that sustainability is everywhere in the store.

The presentations from the meeting have been sent as pdf files. Contact Secretariat if you want them.

On 6th April 2017 is so called consultation Q&A webinar with the MSC, see here:

<https://www.msc.org/newsroom/events/consultation-q-and-a-webinar-am>

And meet them at the Seafood Expo in Bruxelles [MSC og ASCs Seafood Futures Forum](#).

**2020 global sulphur challenge: Implementation and Enforcement**, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 / Hotel Hilton, arrival terminal in Copenhagen Airport

The new 0.5 % sulphur limit enters into force in 2020. Next step is to ensure a successful implementation and enforcement of the sulphur limit to assure that shipowners can pass on all extra costs to cargo owners making shipping a cleaner business and maintaining fair competition. The conference will discuss key questions in relation to the 2020 global sulphur challenge.

There may still be free seats to this event: register [Kaare@ecocouncil.dk](mailto:Kaare@ecocouncil.dk) (Registration is binding). Find more information from the Danish Ecological Council:

<https://www.ecocouncil.dk/en/front-page>

### **Grant funding for attendance of young fish technologists at the 2017 World Seafood Congress**

This is the final reminder that the deadline for the 2017 Peter Howgate Award is rapidly approaching (31<sup>st</sup> March 2017). This award, which is granted by the International Association of Fish Inspectors, will fund the attendance of a young fish technologist (under 30 years of age) to the IAFI World Seafood Congress 2017 (see <http://www.wsc2017.com>), to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, from 10-13<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The Congress is being held to coincide with the Icelandic Fisheries Exhibition from 13-15<sup>th</sup> September. The Award will cover travel, accommodation and the congress fee, and this will afford the winning applicant a career changing opportunity to gain insights and build networks in the global fishery sector. More information and an application form is available from [www.peterhowgateaward.com](http://www.peterhowgateaward.com). You can also visit our Facebook page for updates and information about previous awards (<https://www.facebook.com/PeterHowgateAward>).

The International Association of Fish Inspectors (IAFI) was established in 1999 to serve the world fish inspection community. IAFI exists to promote the exchange of ideas and information, foster interaction, understanding and professional collaboration among individuals, organisations, and governments, disseminate knowledge about seafood and associated products inspection, and promote advancement of the state-of-the-art in fish inspection research and education. For more information visit <http://www.iafi.net/>.

The IAFI Peter Howgate Award is a tribute to Peter Howgate's work and career, and a recognition of his immense and ongoing contribution to the field of fish technology and the people who work in it, both during his 35 years at the UK's Torry Research Station, UK, and thereafter. The Award was set up by fish technology professionals around the world, with the help of the Seafood HACCP Discussion List community and was adopted by the International Association of Fish Inspectors (IAFI) in 2014. This year, the award has special relevance, following Peter's death in late 2016. The Peter Howgate Award is administered by Megapesca Lda. Portugal on behalf of the International Association of Fish Inspectors. We look forward to meeting the successful applicant in Iceland at WSC 2017.

### **Other information/reading**

**Consumer fish patterns: A consumer's story: habits and hallmarks of the fish market in the EU, February 2017**

Good news for the industry: a study of consumer habits across the EU reveals that fish and seafood are commonly found on the tables of three quarters of Europeans. The findings give interesting insights into consumer preferences and behaviour, and provide useful indicators of how the market could be expanded and diversified in what is the world's biggest market for seafood.

In 2015, EU consumers spent €54 billion on seafood and consumed, on average, 25.5 kg per head. But what are the preferences and habits of consumers in this key market? What drives their purchases? And does the market deliver on their expectations? These are the questions that the study recently published by the European Commission tries to answer.

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/magazine/en/places/consumer%E2%80%99s-story-habits-and-hallmarks-fish-market-eu?utm\\_content=buffer72197&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/magazine/en/places/consumer%E2%80%99s-story-habits-and-hallmarks-fish-market-eu?utm_content=buffer72197&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

### **ICES Feature Article - Predicting ecosystems for managing a dynamic ocean**

With a new ICES working group on the subject around the corner, the first feature article of 2017 describes the emerging area of forecasting for marine ecosystems and what these projections can mean for management.

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Predicting-ecosystems-for-managing-a-dynamic-ocean.aspx>

### **ICES The fresh faces of science and advice**

Lotte Worsøe Clausen and Simon Jennings arrive at ICES headquarters after their journeys through study and research and onto the paths of advice and science, starting their terms as Head of Advisory Support and Science Committee (SCICOM) Chair respectively. (ICES News 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/The-fresh-faces-of-science-and-advice-.aspx>

### **ICES Realigning the aquaculture approach**

A recent meeting saw ICES pledge to reinvigorate its work with aquaculture. We look at some of the key challenges in this field and various research priorities across the ICES area. (ICES News 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Realigning-aquaculture.aspx>

<https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201702/invisible-plastic-particles-textiles-and-tyres-major-source-ocean-pollution-%E2%80%93-iucn-study>

### **Invasive alien species on the rise worldwide – IUCN informs**

Invasive alien species are on the rise worldwide and their numbers show no sign of slowing down despite global efforts to address the challenge, according to a study published in *Nature Communications* by an international team of researchers, including members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Invasive Species Specialist Group. (17<sup>th</sup> February 2017)

<https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201702/invasive-alien-species-rise-worldwide>

### **IUCN report welcomes first-ever UN report acknowledging healthy ecosystems as a human right**

This is the first-ever UN report acknowledging that the loss of biodiversity undermines human rights, for example by reducing agricultural and fisheries outputs, negatively affecting health or removing filters from the water cycle. By conserving biodiversity, states therefore also contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on food security, health and water, among others.

<https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201703/iucn-welcomes-first-ever-un-report-acknowledging-healthy-ecosystems-human-right>



## **The MIR (National Marine Fisheries Research Institute) newsletter January-February 2017: practice your Polish**

The newsletter includes a short report from the BSAC Excom on 31st January 2017. This is the first edition of the year. The next one comes out end of March 2017. Contact Secretariat for this.

Attach ./.

### **From ICES (27<sup>th</sup> February 2017):**

To recipients of ICES Advice, please find attached letter from Lotte Worsøe Clausen concerning corrections for the ICES advice that was published in 2016. Cod in SDs 22-24 was one of the corrections.

Attach ./.

### **Jobs at ICES:**

Internship opportunity: join [#ICES\\_ASC](#) Secretariat in Copenhagen to assist us with our Annual Science Conference! We are looking for an intern to assist with our 2017 Annual Science Conference (ASC). The ASC takes place in September with hundreds of attendees from around the world gathering to evaluate scientific progress, develop new ideas, establish partnerships, and plan future work on a wide variety of marine topics. The ASC intern will work closely with the Conference and Training Coordinator at the ICES Secretariat located in central Copenhagen, Denmark. Deadline to apply 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017:

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/Jobs-in-ICES/Pages/Intern-for-ASC-2017.aspx>

### **Eufoma highlights: first edition of 2017**

Nothing specifically Baltic in this edition:

<http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/22933/Monthly+Highlights+-+No.+1-2017.pdf>

### **EUFOMA first sales in Europe**

Overall in 2016, the revenues of EU fisheries were higher, albeit with lower volumes of fish landed. First-sales value developed positively, increasing in Denmark, France, Lithuania, Portugal and the United Kingdom. By contrast, first-sales volume was lower in most countries, except Latvia and Sweden. In December 2016, the positive trend was maintained, with most countries reporting higher first sales.

<http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/96604/Monthly+Highlights+-+No.+2-2017.pdf#page=2>

### **A helping hand to the small fishing vessels in Denmark catching cod: Denmark 28th February 2017**

The Danish food and environment minister Esben Lunde Larsen announced the launch of a financial aid package in the light of the reduction in Baltic cod quotas for 2017. A total of 24 million DKK has been allocated. Most of the money will go to smaller vessels: about 80% of the eligible vessels are below 15 metres. The following conditions apply: vessels that between 2013 and 2015 have earned on average 100.000 DKK per year from cod fishery in the western Baltic, will receive 50.000 DKK. Vessels with corresponding earnings in the eastern Baltic will receive 19.000 DKK. The package is expected to enter into force from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017, and payments to be made from June 2017. The package will only apply in 2017. Specific criteria:

1. An active commercial fishermen as on 1st January 2017
2. Has fished cod 2013-2015
3. Has had a minimum of 70 fishing days total in the Baltic in 2014 and 2015
4. The vessel's share of cod from the Baltic is at least 20% of total value of landings, and of which a minimum 10% comes from the west and the east respectively.
5. The value of landings from the vessel from the Baltic is a minimum 30% of the total value of landings

[http://mfvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/kompensationsordning-skal-holde-smaa-fiskerifartoejer-oekonomisk-oven-vande/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=fvm\\_nyhedsmail&utm\\_campaign=kompensationsordning-skal-holde-sm-fiskerifartjer-konomisk-oven-vande-&cHash=e25871f1d206c40aa5009e1bd30fb427](http://mfvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/kompensationsordning-skal-holde-smaa-fiskerifartoejer-oekonomisk-oven-vande/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=fvm_nyhedsmail&utm_campaign=kompensationsordning-skal-holde-sm-fiskerifartjer-konomisk-oven-vande-&cHash=e25871f1d206c40aa5009e1bd30fb427)

### **The Danish Ministry of Environment and Food announced on 2nd March 2017 the closure of the flatfish fishery in the western Baltic**

[http://mfvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/fladfiskeri-i-vestlige-oestersoe-stoppes/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=fvm\\_nyhedsmail&utm\\_campaign=fladfiskeri-i-vestlige-sters-stoppes&cHash=92aaff706edb34a7c463f0b3691e17d5](http://mfvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/fladfiskeri-i-vestlige-oestersoe-stoppes/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=fvm_nyhedsmail&utm_campaign=fladfiskeri-i-vestlige-sters-stoppes&cHash=92aaff706edb34a7c463f0b3691e17d5)

So it was no longer possible for Danish or German fishermen to catch flatfish during the closed period for the cod fishery which runs until 31st March 2017. This was decided after the Commission informed that it was not possible to catch flatfish within the rules laid down. The Danish minister explained that he took note of the clear message from the Commission and added that it was important for him that the same conditions apply to both Danish and German fishermen. The closure of the flatfish fishery took effect on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **Farnet went live 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

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

### **BALTFISH report - a final report EUSBSR (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) published the Baltfish report**

This document gives brief background on the creation and establishment of BALTFISH, its structure, composition and purpose:

<https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/attachments/article/590800/2017%2002%2003%20BALTFISH%20final%20report.pdf>

### **Plastic Change: Plastic Free Ocean projects in Denmark**

From Plastic Change, Henrik Beha Pedersen informs. With the purpose of combating plastic in the oceans, Plastic Change has entered into partnership with The Eco Council and The Danish Plastics Federation. Together we have developed the project: "Plastic Free Ocean" with the support from two Danish foundations – the Villum Foundation and the Velux Foundation.

A total of five projects are included in Plastic Free Ocean, and they all aim to engage the Danish population in taking action against the rising quantity of plastic in the oceans.

From these projects, we will find out how much plastic there is in our environment, in our mussels and fish.

<http://plasticchange.org/our-solutions/plastic-free-ocean/>

### **The EU and US are tackling plastic pollution of the ocean 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

With a mobile touring exhibition:

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-us-tackling-plastic-pollution-ocean\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-us-tackling-plastic-pollution-ocean_en)

### **Invisible plastic particles from textiles and tyres a major source of ocean pollution – IUCN study**

Tiny plastic particles washed off products such as synthetic clothes and car tyres could contribute up to 30% of the 'plastic soup' polluting the world's oceans and – in many developed countries – are a bigger source of marine plastic pollution than plastic waste, according to a new IUCN report.

The report looked at primary microplastics – plastics that enter the oceans in the form of small particles, as opposed to larger plastic waste that degrades in the water – released from household and industrial products across seven geographical regions. Sources of primary microplastics include car tyres, synthetic textiles, marine coatings, road markings, personal care products, plastic pellets and city dust. (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017)

#### **From BalticSea2020: Cod project in Danish newspaper:**

From February 18<sup>th</sup> the Danish newspaper "Fiskeri Tidende" highlighted the project TABACOD (Tagging Baltic Cod), an international project that will examine the growth of eastern Baltic Sea cod. The work is conducted under the management of DTU Aqua (Karin Hüsey) and in partnership with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), the Thünen Institute in Rostock (TI-OSF) and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Gdynia (NMFRI). Researchers have since last June marked 4,500 cod in order to find out the age, growth and migration patterns - important information to investigate the prognosis of the cod stock.

With reliable stock assessment ICES (The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) are able to provide Member States and European Commission guidance based on secure data in benefit for a viable cod stock in the eastern Baltic Sea. Now the first tagged cod have reached the researchers. In the article we learn more about the project. The project TABACOD is funded by BalticSea2020, with support from the Foundation Thurséus Forskarhem. [Information about the project is also available on the BalticSea2020 website here.:](#)

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/alla-projekt/rovfisken/fishery-ongoing-projects/369-tagging-project-to-map-the-cods-growth>

In Danish an article here:

<http://balticsea2020.org/english/images/Bilagor/Artikel-i-FiskerTidende-18-feb-2017.pdf>

#### **Intrafish fisheries Newspaper March 2017**

No Baltic specific news. But a two-page report on Fighting Foul Weather: Fishermen need to be prepared for any weather. Commercial fishing companies are developing new lines – and gear aimed at women is taking off.

And coming up in the April edition: The long and short of longlining: where consumer demand for longline caught fish has increased. The focus has shifted from efficiency to catching a high-quality product.

#### **Danish Fishing News newspaper from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017: “The ACs are no longer advisory”**

According to the report, work in the Baltic and North Sea ACs has been given high priority by the Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation (DFPO). This will now be the subject of a review. The report goes on to refer to comments made by the president Svend-Erik Andersen at a recent general assembly meeting. He said that the ACs have been one of the cornerstones of the international work of the DFPO. At the beginning things went well, but in recent years too much time has been spent discussing details with the NGOs. He added that the DFPO will now give thought to how it will prioritise its efforts in future.

#### **Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation (DFPO) are looking for a consultant with an interest in fisheries, sustainability labelling and nature management – to deal with MSC certification of fisheries.**

In Danish, deadline for applying 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017:

<http://fiskeritidende.dk/job/>

#### **The Environmental Defense Fund: Fishing Gear innovations creating great results for fish, fishermen and the habitat 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Trawl gear modifications produce reductions in bycatch, fuel use, and seafloor contact - all with increased catching efficiency:

[http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2017/02/24/fishing-gear-innovations-creating-great-results-for-fish-fishermen-and-habitat/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=edf\\_default-feedburner\\_upd\\_web&utm\\_term=1487349812](http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2017/02/24/fishing-gear-innovations-creating-great-results-for-fish-fishermen-and-habitat/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=edf_default-feedburner_upd_web&utm_term=1487349812)

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

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**HELCOM meetings and news: more information on [www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)**

**Vacancy announcement at HELCOM:**

Here is for your information and possible action the [vacancy announcement for HELCOM Professional Secretary \(Maritime, Response, Fish\)](#).

[http://www.helcom.fi/about-us/vacancies/professional-secretary-vacancy-\(maritime-response-fish\)/](http://www.helcom.fi/about-us/vacancies/professional-secretary-vacancy-(maritime-response-fish)/)

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2017.

**The outcome of the 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Baltic environment protection Commission, 28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

HELCOM informed of the outcome, find the report here:

<https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/HELCOM%2038-2017-401/MeetingDocuments/Outcome%20of%20HELCOM%2038-2017.pdf>

**The Seventh Meeting of the project for the development of the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II 7-2017), 4-6 April 2017, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Copenhagen.**

HELCOM can give you further details.

**It's about salmon and sea trout: Reporting on national implementation of HELCOM on conservation of Baltic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries.**

This is based on reports received from Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Finland and Estonia, as well as updated information provided by Sweden in 2015.

Attach ./.

**A draft HELCOM proposal on data collection, sent to the BSAC Secretariat received from Katarzyna Kaminska (Polish Ministry of Maritime Economy): (she sent this to all those who took part at the HELCOM FISH 5 meeting November 2016) – FISH related.**

She wrote: With reference to the par. 5.36 of the Outcome of the HELCOM FISH 5/2016 meeting, please find attached ***Draft HELCOM proposal as end user, for data to be collected under DC-MAP in order to effectively assess the impact of Baltic fisheries on the marine ecosystem in the Baltic Sea*** which has been prepared by me and then significantly amended and supplemented by Sven Koschinski. This draft proposal has been prepared on a basis of the ***Letter to the European Commission on HELCOM data needs in the context of the ongoing Reform of the European Union system for fisheries data collection*** which had been sent to the DG MARE Director General Bernhard Friess in May 2016. In order to be able to submit the draft proposal for the consideration of the HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 6/2017 meeting (Uppsala, 15-19 of May 2017) and next HELCOM FISH meeting, I should be very grateful for your comments and amendments in track changes format before **29 of March 2017**.

Attach ./.

**HELCOM BONUS BALTICAPP workshop, 29-30 March 2017, Stockholm**

This is about the use of ecological-economic research to support marine policy implementation in the Baltic. The workshop aims to build understanding about how the ongoing ecological-economic research can serve and support marine policy implementation and integrated management, and identify existing gaps and priorities for future research in order to reach policy objectives in the Baltic Sea region. The workshop focuses on scenarios, ecosystem services and marine spatial planning. Contact HELCOM for more information.

**Fishermen's health and safety**

**It's working: Prevention of accidents at work in Nordic fisheries: – What has worked?**

<http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1078287&dswid=-2550>

**A press release from Nordic Cooperation – A new report: Accident prevention in Nordic fisheries has worked 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017**



Work related accidents in the fisheries sector, especially serious accidents and deaths have been significantly reduced. No other sector has shown such a positive development. Legislation and technical safety measures, as well as significant changes in safety norms, climate and culture are part of the reason why the number of accidents has fallen. This has emerged from the Nordic cooperative project: Effective means in preventing accidents in fisheries in the Nordic Countries (ViFaFin). With help from the Nordic Council of Ministers, this project has investigated what has been done and what has worked to prevent fisheries related accidents. The project has provided new knowledge on this because it has not previously been the subject of a scientific study in the Nordic countries.

Education and changes in behaviour amongst fishermen, as well as the widespread use of protection are other important explanations. The safety initiatives taken do not vary very much amongst the Nordic countries. Denmark is an example where the number of reported accidents in fisheries was almost three times above the national average in 2000, but by 2015 was at or just below the national average.

The report describes in detail the development in the number of accidents in fisheries over the past 15-20 years in each of the Nordic countries and explains what has happened and what has been done over the years to prevent the previously many accidents. This is combined with a pilot project where fishermen in each of the Nordic countries are interviewed. Their accounts give an insight into how they have experienced the development in accidents on board the vessel. According to the fishermen, many factors have had a positive significance, and in particular changes in the safety culture have scored high in all the Nordic countries.

Overall, this study shows that the positive development in the occurrence of accidents in the Nordic fisheries is not due to just one factor, but an overall integrated safety approach and a coordinated preventative effort which has had a positive and noticeable effect on safety behaviour and accidents in the fisheries sector. You can read the report here:



<http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:norden:org:diva-4764>

And you can contact: Cecilie Bekker Zober E-mail cebz@norden.org

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