

Dear members,

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

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

This meeting took place in Copenhagen. The meeting report and the presentations are here:

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

We regret, but the presentation made by the representative from Plastic Change hasn't been sent to us.

Also produced at the meeting, and agreed on by all those taking part, was a short summary. This was sent for information to the BSAC Executive Committee, so the ExCom got immediate information on how this meeting went. Nils Höglund, who chaired the meeting, is expected to be confirmed as chair at the coming ExCom meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

### **The new BSAC year 2017-2018: Started 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017**

The Secretariat has updated the reimbursement rules and the travel claim form according to official reimbursement rates. The Secretariat will only accept this form 2017-2018. Find them here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC/BSAC-Administration>

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

Kindly confirm to the Secretariat [sc@bsac.dk](mailto:sc@bsac.dk) your participation at these meetings (both or either) no later than **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017**. The Secretariat has asks members to inform if they have business for these meetings by Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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

### **Joint Working Group 7th-8th June 2017, Klaipeda**

The annual meeting held by the BSAC to deal with the ICES advice for the Baltic fishery in 2018 (advice released by ICES 31st May 2017)

ICES ACOM chair Eskild Kirkegaard has confirmed that he will present the advice for all the Baltic stocks and deal with questions and comments. We are investigating whether DG Mare will send a representative to present the Commission's annual consultation paper and join in the discussions in the WG.

**A draft agenda will follow.** BSAC members are asked to write to the Secretariat if they want to propose issues for the agenda.

Kindly sign up no later than **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017**:

More at <http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group/InviteJointWG7-80617.PDF.aspx?lang=en-GB>

### **Tentative date for next ExCom: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

ExCom members have been informed and asked for feedback on this date. No one has sent any objections.

### **From PELAC**

Please find attached the Pelagic AC recommendation on the revision of the Technical Measures Regulation. In case you have any questions contact PELAC.

<http://www.pelagic-ac.org/recommendations2017>

### **The SWWAC is advertising for a new Executive Secretary**

**French/Spanish/Portuguese:**

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

## **BALTFISH/Member States**

### **The BALTFISH Forum 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Berlin**

The BALTFISH Forum meeting on 26th April 2017 is from 13hrs to 18hrs and the BSAC pre-meeting in the morning to prepare for it is from 9:30 till 12:00 (**both at the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture**).

Link to BALTFISH Forum agenda:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/BALTFISH-Forum-meeting>

The BSAC pre-meeting agenda is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-BALTFISH-pre-meeting>

### **BALTFISH meeting under the Danish Presidency**

The FIRST meeting under the Danish BALTFISH Presidency will be 31st August and 1st September 2017 in Copenhagen.

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

### **From the Commission to small-scale fishermen: Calling all small-scale fishermen!**

**29/03/2017**

Did you know that the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) can support you throughout your professional life and even beyond, by contributing to the development of your fishing community? The EMFF can help you to train yourself or your partner, hire a trainee or buy your first own boat, new fishing gear, new engines or on-board equipment. It can also help you improve your fishing practices, add value to your catch or diversify your economic activities. As a small-scale coastal fisherman using a fishing vessel of less than 12m overall length with no towed gear, you can benefit from preferential conditions and higher rates of public support under certain conditions. Find out more by reading the leaflet [here](#)

### **European Parliament news**

### **Data collection: More efficient and reliable data in fisheries-EP adopts new regulation (16<sup>th</sup> March 2016)**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170308IPR65696/more-efficient-and-reliable-data-in-fisheries-ep-adopts-new-regulation>

The new rules for data collection in fisheries which will result to more efficient and reliable data was adopted by plenary on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The new rules will result in better and more comparable data which will help to make better decisions in fisheries based on scientifically proven evidence. The revised regulation was informally agreed by the Parliament and the Council in December 2016.

### **Multiannual Union programme for data collection**

The European Commission will establish a multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data, taking into account, inter alia, the need for relevant and reliable data, costs and benefits and the need to avoid duplication of data collection. The multiannual programme will include:

- thresholds below which it will not be mandatory for a member state to collect data or carry out research surveys
- biological data on all stocks caught or by-caught in Union commercial, and recreational fisheries in Union and outside Union waters
- data to assess the impact of Union fisheries on the marine ecosystem in Union waters and outside Union waters
- data on the activity of Union fishing vessels in Union waters and outside Union waters

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

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- socio-economic data and sustainability data on marine aquaculture to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance and the sustainability of the Union aquaculture sector, including its environmental impact
- socio-economic data on the fish processing sector to enable the assessment of the socio-economic performance of that sector

### **National work plans**

Member states will prepare detailed work plans, in close cooperation with other member states. These work plans will include data to be collected in accordance with the Union programme, the spatial distribution and the frequency by which the data will be collected and the format and timing when data will be made available to end-users.

### **Regional coordination groups**

In order to facilitate regional coordination (regionalisation is one of the core objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy), EU countries will establish "Regional Coordination Groups" for each marine region. These Groups will consist of experts nominated by member states, national correspondents - designated by member states to serve as the focal point for exchange of information between the Commission and the member state- and representatives from the Commission. The Groups will develop regional databases and may also prepare draft regional work plans to be submitted to the Commission for evaluation. These regional plans will replace or supplement the relevant parts of the national work plans of each member state concerned.

### **Mapping priorities and actions for maritime/marine spatial planning worldwide: a joint roadmap**

27/03/2017

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE) adopted on 24/03/2017 a "**Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide**". The roadmap identifies common challenges and proposals for actions to be implemented in the coming years, reaching out for collaboration with other UN bodies and Member States.

This Road Map is a practical outcome of the Second International Conference on Maritime/ Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) organised jointly by DG-MARE and IOC-UNESCO on 15-17 March 2017.

The main objective of the Conference was to review the status of Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) - one decade after the first International MSP Conference – and to identify a path forward that addresses multiple global challenges from 2017 onwards.

The outcome went far beyond expectations, showcasing an international community of planners and stakeholders ready to identify solutions and commit to cross-sectoral actions in order to conserve our oceans and seas and to use their resources in a more sustainable way.

The roadmap will be submitted to the UN Conference on SDG 14 (5-9 June 2017) by IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE as part of a joint voluntary commitment highlighting the contribution of MSP to the implementation of Agenda 2030. The two organizations intend to host a special side event on MSP during the Conference to present the MSP roadmap and to catalyse partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. There are five priority areas in RoadMap, as well as key actions. Blue Economy is one of them. So too is Ecosystem-based maritime/marine spatial planning. Read here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/mapping-priorities-and-actions-maritimemarine-spatial-planning-worldwide-joint-roadmap\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/mapping-priorities-and-actions-maritimemarine-spatial-planning-worldwide-joint-roadmap_en)

**The PECH Newsletter: Trawler – March 2017** prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries.

This document is also available on PECH website:

<https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/115684/Trawler%20March.pdf>

In his opening words, Alain Cadec, chair of the Fisheries Committee refers to Brexit where fisheries will be one of the sectors potentially most affected. He underlines that he will be working to defend the "Acquis" of the Commission Fisheries Policy. The Newsletter also highlighted the coming **PECH Committee meeting of**

**22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 and the exchange of views with Commissioner Karmenu Vella on all things to do with fisheries and with Commission representatives on Western Baltic cod.**

**Exchange with Karmenu Vella**, who was speaking half way through his mandate as Commissioner, said there were two lines of work he was focusing on:

1. Implementing the reform of the CFP

Amongst the subjects he raised, he referred to the Baltic management plan which was adopted in the summer. He also said there was a small and steady improvement in the small-scale fisheries sector. On the landing obligation he referred to interspecies flexibility and stated that only Finland and Denmark are using that (herring and sprat): it should be made use of, he said. On technical measures there was a need for understandable and simpler rules and he encouraged the Fisheries Committee to give priority to that dossier. Finally, he mentioned that fishermen are worried about what the future hold for them in an EU of 27 Member States.

2. Engaging globally with partners

This meant reaching out to the partners beyond the EU and ensuring sustainable management of the oceans. He referred to a High Level Event planned in Finland on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June: "A sustainable Arctic – innovative approaches:

[https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/register-high-level-event-sustainable-arctic-%E2%80%93-innovative-approaches\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/register-high-level-event-sustainable-arctic-%E2%80%93-innovative-approaches_en)

And to the Our Oceans conference on Malta 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

When asked by one MEP about the results obtained by the Baltic management plan and whether it will lead to a better implementation of the CFP and whether TAC setting has been in line with the multiannual plan, Karmenu Vella replied that there is a need to speed up with adopting the multiannual plans, to be in line with the 2020 target; the Baltic plan marked a significant step forward and it will give results and yes, it was in line with the MAMP. The plan will have to be evaluated in 5 years (it had not been recommended to evaluate it earlier).

Commenting on the presentation made by Karmenu Vella, Gabriel Mato, rapporteur for the Technical measures proposal informed that the Fisheries Committee has had 4/5 discussions and held two Hearings. At the end of March there was to be a meeting with the sector. They were trying to facilitate timelines and deadlines. He wondered what scope simplification of regionalisation will be.

**And exchange with the Commission on western Baltic cod**

MEP Jaroslaw Walesa introduced the subject and referred to the flatfish in the western Baltic, the problem of choke species and a more flexible approach that had been demanded by Council, hence the derogation to allow catches of flatfish. According to him this had been an abuse of the flexibility of the multiannual management plan.

Other MEPs had comments and questions about the closed period for fishing western Baltic cod (one MEP asked: why was it not enacted by means of a delegated act?), the temporarily allowed flatfish fishery, as well as to recreational catches of cod and the setting of the 2017 TAC for Gulf of Riga herring.

The Commission representatives, asked to comment and reply, said they had been alarmed at the decision to allow the flatfish fishery during the closed period. They acted immediately, sending out inspection missions to Denmark and Germany and then intervening to close the fishery. They also explained how the TAC and quota levels for western Baltic cod had been determined and advised on last year. The recreational cod fishery is a relatively new element, and the data is still fresh and it has to be verified. The Gulf of Riga herring TAC decision had encompassed reports from national institutes in the two Member States involved and which also work within the ICES process. So it was understood that the evidence was sufficient on which to base the decision for the TAC for 2017. On referring to the decision to have a temporary closure to the cod fishery in the Western Baltic for part of the year and at a specific depth, the measure was considered to be part of the TAC quota regulation, rather than introducing it by means of a delegated act.

Finally, a Commission representative informed on the two current proposed delegated acts for restrictions on fishing in Natura 2000 areas.

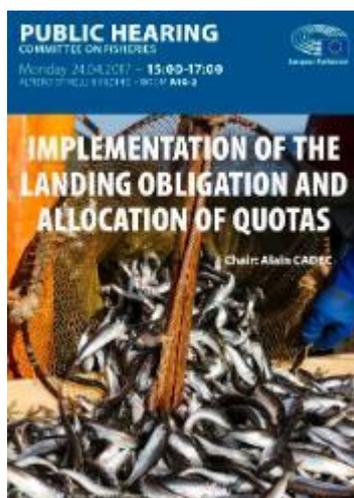
Committee Members took note of the information and replies from the Commission representatives.

One MEP lamented the low number of Fisheries Committee members taking part at the meeting.

**The next PECH Committee meeting will take place on:**

**Monday 24 April from 15:00 to 18:30 and Tuesday, 25 April from 9:00 to 12:30 and 15.00 to 18.30**

**There will be a Hearing on the Implementation of landing obligation and allocation of quotas**



On Monday 24 April 2017, the Committee on Fisheries will hold a hearing on the "State of play of the implementation of the landing obligation and allocation of quotas by the Member States". Since 2015 the landing obligation is being implemented on a gradual basis. Each fishery has its own specificities and differences which makes the implementation of the landing obligation a major challenge for fisheries management. PECH Members will be hearing different experts to assess the state of play of the implementation of landing obligation and will discuss some possible trials and solutions developed by different stakeholders over the last few years.

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

**The EU Funded Discardless project: the conference of 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

The outcome of the conference, plus the presentations here:

<http://www.discardless.eu/home/presentation/discardless-stakeholders-conference-in-fao-rome-on-9-10-march-2017>

And a presentation of H2020 DiscardLess (2015-2019) What can Science do to help with the landing obligation? March 2017 – Update: Presented to the meeting on the Fisheries Dialogue Forum of 13th March 2017 held at the Danish Agri Fish Agency.

**Attached** ./.

**The Danish ministry held a thematic day on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to look at angling (Fishing News 1<sup>st</sup> April)**

The Danish minister for environment and food has a vision for a new national strategy on angling.

This all began on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 with a thematic day, held on the Danish island of Lolland.

German tourists in particular love to go to Denmark to fish and they spend on average almost 1350 Euros when they do. A two- legged strategy is envisaged: find and establish good places to fish and provide good experiences out in the Danish countryside. And this in turn will help to develop tourism and create growth in the different parts of Denmark. Biologist Henrik Lund from the Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation took

part and he informed that there is one thing in particular that both recreational and commercial fishermen agree on: cormorants and seals are a major threat to the development of recreational fishing and angling. He also referred to the thoughts and wishes from the anglers to earmark some species which commercial fishermen would not be able to fish: salmon, trout, pike, perch and pike-perch.

A working group will now be set up and start to work on developing a new strategy and come up with recommendations: everyone is invited to come with input.

**Marelitt Baltic workshop: Methodology and practical planning, 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Maritime Academy, Szczecin, Poland**

**“Searching for a systemic solution for mitigation of DFG problem”**. The meeting discussed how to designate concrete locations of actions at sea in 4 countries in 2017, to agree upon common method of sampling areas which would enable to estimate the amount of derelict fishing gears (DFG) in the Baltic, agree upon final methodologies for DFG search and retrieval and innovative methods for safe DFG retrieval from wrecks. The GIS map (work in progress) with derelict fishing gears hot spots was presented. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (work in progress) was also discussed. Different retrieval methods are compared in the context of different habitats and biotopes. The assessment also includes the impact of bottom trawling compared to retrieval methods. Different alternatives (devices used to retrieve ghost nets) are compared to zero alternative (leaving DFG in place). Preliminary results of EIA: higher impact of trawling than DFG retrieval. The EIA is based on research done in the past (including HELCOM data) and the final assessment should be ready in July. The discussion focused on the possible geographical categorisation of fishing hot spots and gill net fishing pattern in general. What is the reason for the distribution of gill net fishery and trawl fishery? Do the differences in topography affect the fishing pattern? Polish fishermen underlined that fishing gears are lost mostly due to the sea bottom topography (rocks as well as wrecks) and that conflict areas caused by overlapping gill net and trawl fishery are not the main reason for generating DFG phenomenon. An effective and safe method of cleaning shipwrecks from ghost nets worked out during previous ghost net retrieval operations was presented. Conflicts which can generate DFG also occur between recreational and professional fishermen. More in the report from Marelitt (in the next newsletter).

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

**Attached invitation ./.**

BSAC is not registering or not funding participation at this.

**Other information/reading**

**NEW quota management system for Swedish demersal fisheries (2 articles) (Sent to us from Erik Lindebo, Environmental Defense Fund)**

**Quota system overhaul in Swedish demersal fisheries:**

[https://main-hookandnetmag-hookandnet.content.pugpig.com/2017/03/17/2017-03sfpo1/pugpig\\_index.html](https://main-hookandnetmag-hookandnet.content.pugpig.com/2017/03/17/2017-03sfpo1/pugpig_index.html)

**Role of fishing industry in the design process:**

[https://main-hookandnetmag-hookandnet.content.pugpig.com/2017/03/17/2017-03sfpo2/pugpig\\_index.html](https://main-hookandnetmag-hookandnet.content.pugpig.com/2017/03/17/2017-03sfpo2/pugpig_index.html)

**And a new blog by Eric Lindebo:**

<http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2017/03/20/sea-changes-the-interesting-times-facing-european-fisheries/>

**Horizon the EU research and innovation Magazine 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017: DNA samples taken to see what fish is entering the trade: case study snapper**

General fish labels like snapper, sole and seabream take away the power to accurately assess stocks and then distort fishing quotas, but by identifying individual species we could prevent illegal catches ending up on our plates. When a type of fish becomes popular the resulting demand sees dozens of other species come under the same label. This approach disregards if some species are endangered or under a greater threat of overfishing. 'There are 112 different species of snappers and a lot of countries would allow any of them to be

called snapper on the label,' said Dr Donna Cawthorn from the University of Salford in the UK and the leading researcher at SNAPTRACE, an EU-funded project looking to close these labelling loopholes. The project is collecting DNA samples of snappers around the world while analysing customs data. So far, they have found that only around half of the snapper trade is entering into official statistics – meaning the other half could easily be different species sold as snappers.

[https://horizon-magazine.eu/article/dna-barcoding-needed-break-fish-black-market\\_en.html](https://horizon-magazine.eu/article/dna-barcoding-needed-break-fish-black-market_en.html)

### **From Coalition Clean Baltic: NGOs urge EU Parliament to remain firm against fisheries subsidies (17<sup>th</sup> March 2017)**

CCB, together with more than 100 European Organisations, called upon MEPs to support the 2014 Parliament position that maintained the ban on subsidies for the construction of new fishing vessels, which has existed in the EU since 2004. Reintroducing the opportunity to use subsidies for new fisheries vessel would undermine the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy to end overfishing, the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (in particular SDG14) and the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies in the WTO.

[http://www.ccb.se/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/20170316\\_ngos-against-harmful-subsidies\\_en101.pdf](http://www.ccb.se/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/20170316_ngos-against-harmful-subsidies_en101.pdf)

### **From Coalition Clean Baltic: dealing with plastics in waste water after treatments 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

A new CCB study concludes that both waste water after treatments plants and storm water contains micro plastic particles. Testing the same water after it has passed through a constructed wetland show that considerable amounts are trapped in the wetland, regardless if the initial amounts were high or low. The results are encouraging since all efforts to reduce increasing outflow of micro plastic to river and sea are welcome, and in the case of using wetlands it is a win-win-win situation since we already know that wetlands also work for capturing nutrients and pharmaceuticals.

<http://www.ccb.se/2017/04/wetlands-dramatically-reduce-micro-plastic/>

### **LIFE please find below the link to LIFE's February Newsletter (March due out soon)**

<http://lifeplatform.eu/news-deck-february-2017/>

### **Substantial changes in fish distribution identified by ICES 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Substantial-changes-in-fish-distribution-identified-by-ICES.aspx>

Advice, published today, describes shifts in distribution of 16 species of fish, with half of these occurring in relation to management areas.

Answering a request from the European Commission, experts of the Workshop on Fish Distribution Shifts (WKFISHDISH) found that 16 out of 21 species examined have shown changes in their distributions across the northeast Atlantic since 1985, with hake and mackerel shifting the most. Of these, eight species exhibited distribution changes that crossed total allowable catch (TAC) management areas boundaries. Environmental conditions such as sea temperature, in addition to changes in the distribution and intensity of fishing effort, were found to be strong drivers for these patterns of change.

The evaluation coupled northeast Atlantic trawl data with information from literature to conclude that hake, mackerel, anchovy, cod, herring, horse mackerel, plaice, and common sole had either shifted their relative distribution between different TAC management areas or into areas not currently covered by TACs.

Distributions of a further eight species – white- and black-bellied anglerfish, blue whiting, megrim, sprat, whiting, haddock, and saithe – were found to have shifted, though these did not affect the TAC areas. The remaining five species exhibited no change, or the results were inconclusive regarding distribution shifts.

### **Influence of environmental changes**

While distribution changes were detailed, it was not possible to evaluate the current relative abundance of each species within each TAC area the available surveys are not designed to consistent sampling across the regions. The surveys were useful for understanding the distribution of the species across the ICES survey areas as well as changes in their centres of distribution. Large, continuous, and directional changes in distribution determined from the survey data and the literature review were used by the experts to describe 'substantial changes in distribution'.

### **New research by Ray Hilborn et al. When does fishing forage species affect their predators?**

This paper explores the impact of fishing low trophic level “forage” species on higher trophic level marine predators including other fish, birds and marine mammals. We show that existing analyses using trophic models have generally ignored a number of important factors including (1) the high level of natural variability of forage fish, (2) the weak relationship between forage fish spawning stock size and recruitment and the role of environmental productivity regimes, (3) the size distribution of forage fish, their predators and subsequent size selective predation (4) the changes in spatial distribution of the forage fish as it influences the reproductive success of predators. We show that taking account of these factors generally tends to make the impact of fishing forage fish on their predators less than estimated from trophic models. We also explore the empirical relationship between forage fish abundance and predator abundance for a range of U.S. fisheries and show that there is little evidence for a strong connection between forage fish abundance and the rate of change in the abundance of their predators. We suggest that any evaluation of harvest policies for forage fish needs to include these issues, and that models tailored for individual species and ecosystems are needed to guide fisheries management policy.

Read the full release [here](#).

[http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0165783617300176/1-s2.0-S0165783617300176-main.pdf?\\_tid=47279b66-1a91-11e7-a89a-00000aacb362&acdnat=1491459872\\_79b5349a37a14c7943dc48533f569996](http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0165783617300176/1-s2.0-S0165783617300176-main.pdf?_tid=47279b66-1a91-11e7-a89a-00000aacb362&acdnat=1491459872_79b5349a37a14c7943dc48533f569996)

### **Fisheries Secretariat has alternative news on the BSAC sub-group meeting on EBM, 31 March 2017:**

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/03/31/bsac-established-new-working-group-for-ecosystem-based-management/>

### **Fisheries Secretariat German Presidency of BALTFISH drawing to a close with discussions on discards 7 April 2017.**

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/04/07/german-presidency-of-baltfish-drawing-to-a-close-with-discussions-on-discards/>

### **OCEANA is recruiting – see the job advert here:**

<http://eu.oceana.org/en/about-oceana/employment-opportunities>

### **OCEANA commissioned a report from Rainer Froese on the statues of European fish stocks**

To get the full picture of European fisheries, Oceana commissioned a scientific study on the status of European fish stocks and their potential productivity if sustainably managed. According to this independent study only a minority of European stocks can be considered as well managed, and although there is serious cause for concern about the current state of fish stocks, the potential of stock recovery is huge.

<http://eu.oceana.org/en/our-work/froese-report/overview>

### **ICES has a vacancy for an Advisory Programme Assisting Secretary (deadline 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017)**

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/Jobs-in-ICES/Pages/Advisory-Programme-Assisting-Secretary-.aspx>

### **European Anglers Alliance President asked full recognition for recreational fisheries in the CFP in the European Parliament 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

He did this at the recent Hearing held by the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee to deal with management of fishing activities in Natura 2000 areas. Referring to those Natura 2000 sites he said that recreational angling does no harm but also provides welcome socio-economic activity. See here:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/10435/eea-president-asks-full-recognition-for-recreational-fisheries-in-the-cfp-in-the-european-parliament.html>

### **Intrafish Fisheries newspaper of April 2017**

Nothing specifically Baltic in the April edition. There is a cover story on longlining: The long and short of longlining: Demand for fish using this method is growing: so how can it be done right? The article reports that in recent years there has been a focus on sustainability, focus on quality of seafood, as well as on the health and safety of fishermen. Automating fisheries does not automatically make it a modern industry. Longline fishing and methods are described in the article. Mechanisation also has to ensure quality treatment of the fish. Nowadays autolining is much more efficient.

### **Oxygen loss in the world's oceans and cause: From the Küsten newsletter number 2 2017 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

In the international journal Nature, oceanographers from the GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel are now publishing the most comprehensive analysis on oxygen loss in the world's oceans and its cause. The observed rise in water temperatures leads in two ways to poorer oxygen supply to the oceans: warmer surface water absorbs less oxygen than colder water and it stabilizes the stratification of the water, weakening the circulation movement, so that less oxygen is transported to large depths. So many model calculations predict a decrease in oxygen content in the oceans with global warming. The GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel has now published the most comprehensive study on global oxygen content in the world's oceans. It shows that in the last 50 years it has decreased by more than two percent. Since large fishes in particular avoid or do not survive areas with low oxygen content, these changes can have far-reaching biological consequences. Here, in German only:

[http://www.geomar.de/index.php?id=4&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_ttnews%5btnews%5d=4997&tx\\_ttnews%5bbackPid%5d=185](http://www.geomar.de/index.php?id=4&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5btnews%5d=4997&tx_ttnews%5bbackPid%5d=185)

### **Europêche: Success story for European fisheries and policies 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Europêche reports that the European Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has recently published its annual report on the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as regards the progress on the situation of the fish stocks and exploitation levels. Decades of self-sacrifice is returning our fisheries to greatness, since the report clearly shows that stocks status is significantly improving. It also reflects an overall downward trend in the fishing pressure. However, additional efforts are still needed, particularly in the Mediterranean. Read more:

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/137153/success-story-for-european-fisheries-and-policies>

### **Received from WWF Finland's Fish campaign: The Finns are sourcing more 'green' fish than ever**

Text: WWF Finland has successfully managed to turn the Finnish seafood trade around to sourcing more sustainable seafood products. During 2012-2015, WWF challenged the most important seafood actors to make commitments to promote more sustainable seafood by adapting their procurement to the WWF Finnish

Seafood Guide. By the end of the campaign challenge less than 2% of fish sold is unsustainable (red according to the guide). The campaign's success demonstrates the value of companies, fishing authorities, non-governmental organizations and citizens acting as one to help solve the overfishing crisis. Read more on the English Summary of WWF Finland Fish Campaign at:

[http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_finland\\_fishcampaign\\_summary\\_\\_2017\\_.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_finland_fishcampaign_summary__2017_.pdf)

More information from Matti Ovaska: [matti.ovaska@wwf.fi](mailto:matti.ovaska@wwf.fi)

#### **HELCOM meetings and news: only some of it**

#### **HELCOM overview tracks progress of oiled wildlife response in the Baltic countries. Five out of nine Baltic Sea countries have plans in place for wildlife polluted from marine spills (16<sup>th</sup> March 2017)**

According to a new HELCOM report, five Baltic Sea countries have established plans for handling polluted wildlife during marine pollution incidents, mostly created via active partnerships between authorities and NGOs. Other coastal countries are still identifying proper approaches and developing resources. Different approaches to wildlife response have been selected by those Baltic Sea coastal countries which have procedures in place. Some countries have chosen cleaning and rehabilitation of polluted wildlife as the default approach, others apply euthanasia unless species with conservation interest are involved. 42 pages:

<http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/Report%20on%20the%20status%20of%20national%20wildlife%20response%20plans%20in%20the%20Baltic%20Sea.pdf>

#### **Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 6-2017). St. Petersburg, Russia, 25-27 April 2017**

Main issues on the agenda: Marine litter, Underwater noise, Dredging/depositing operations and mining on the sea floor (data reporting and assessment), Hazardous substances and Input of nutrients into the Baltic Sea.

#### **16th Meeting of the Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 16-2017) 23-24 May 2017 in Helsinki, Finland. Invitation on HELCOM website.**

The meeting will address:

- recommending the draft 'State of the Baltic Sea' for approval by HOD 52-2016 and to be published in June 2017, as the first comprehensive version of the report,
- updating on the planned national consultation on the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report,
- agreeing on the further development in HELCOM of environmental targets related to pressures affecting seabed habitats and underwater noise.

#### **Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017), 15-19 May 2017, Uppsala, Sweden**

Main agenda items: Monitoring and assessment, Environmental monitoring and data Progress of relevant HELCOM projects and assessments, Matters arising from other meetings of relevance for the Working Group, HELCOM indicators and assessments, Monitoring guidelines for biota, Follow-up of HELCOM agreements and activities, Plans for implementation of the work plan and emerging issues, HELCOM network of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas.

#### **The sixth HELCOM Ecosystem based sustainable fisheries meeting FISH 22nd- 24th May 2017, Helsinki**

On the agenda: Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance of the group, HELCOM Assessments & Indicators, BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture, Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and

Closer regional cooperation on Fisheries & Environment. Malin Lönnroth, Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations, will represent the BSAC fisheries ExCom members.

### **HELCOM MARITIME WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN AWARDED THE BALTIC SEA FUND PRIZE 2017**

<http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/HELCOM-Maritime-Working-Group-awarded-the-Baltic-Sea-Fund-prize-2017.aspx>

### **Fishermen's health and safety**

#### **SAFE FISHING "Standardized program at European level for the control of occupational hazards in the trawling fishing sector"**

We are very pleased in sending the 5th newsletter related to a Standardized Training Project at a European level in Occupational Safety and Health in the Trawling Fisheries named "*TRAINING TOOL BASED ON THE USE OF ICT FOR RISK PREVENTION AND SAFETY IN THE TRAWLING FISHING (SAFE FISHING)*".

From the Vigo shipowners cooperative (ARVI)

Latest newsletter attached ./.

#### **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region: Policy Area on Maritime Safety and Security "PA Safe"**

#### **Policy Area's international Steering Committee, which will be held on 30 – 31 May 2017 Brussels**

To:

Members of the international Steering Committee

Flagship Projects

Seed Money Projects

Dear recipient,

The Policy Area Coordinators are pleased to invite you to the next meeting of the Policy Area's international Steering Committee, which will be held on **30 – 31 May 2017** in **Brussels, Belgium**.

The meeting starts as an open event called "The Future of Maritime Safety & Security and Clean Shipping in the Baltic Sea Region". The event takes place on **30 May 2017 from 09.30 to 17.00 at the Hotel Renaissance, 19 Rue du Parnasse, 1050 Brussels**. The event will be organised jointly with PA Ship.

Originally advertised as a joint and open Steering Committee meeting of PA Ship and PA Safe, the event aims to gather input on potentials and future priorities for maritime safety and security and clean shipping, including ways to involve industry stakeholders to a higher extent in the work of PA Safe, PA Ship and their Flagship Projects as well as to facilitate dialogue and links between the EU policy level and the Policy Areas and their Flagship projects.

In addition to the event, a short, closed meeting of the Steering Committee of PA Safe will be held in **31 May 2017** between **10 - 12 AM** at the **premises of the European Commission's DG for Regional and Urban Policy** (Avenue de Beaulieu 5 B-1160 Brussels)

Please register online [here](#) no later than 16 May 2017.

A draft agenda and other meeting documents for the meeting will be sent out in due course.

In addition, please be informed about the following changes in the PA Safe team of the Finnish Transport Safety Agency. Ms **Sanna Sonninen** is named as Finnpilot Pilotage Ltd's Pilotage Director from 1 April 2017. Special Adviser **Jouni Lappalainen** is named as the new Policy Area Coordinator for PA Safe from 1 April

2017 and Special Adviser **Hannu Laurikainen** is named as the assistant Policy Area Coordinator for PA Safe from 1 March 2017. Hannu's email: [hannu.laurikainen@trafi.fi](mailto:hannu.laurikainen@trafi.fi)

On behalf of the Finnish and Danish Priority Area Coordinators,

Best regards,

Jouni Lappalainen  
Special Adviser, PhD

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