

Dear members,

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

#### **ExCom meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017: confirmed and draft agenda**

The draft agenda and invitation have been sent to members. Please sign up in good time.

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

#### **Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017: output**

The final reports will be on the BSAC just as soon as they are finalized, together with all the other meeting material (not annexes):

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

#### **Annual Report 2016-2017 and BSAC statutes (updated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017)**

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC/About-the-BSAC>

#### **Message from Erik Lindebo BSAC member organisation The Environmental Defense Fund**

Erik Lindebo informs that after three incredibly exciting years with Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and CFP implementation, he has rejoined DG MARE in Unit C1: Fisheries Management Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea. He can still be contacted on his gmail address. For all future work relating to EDF, please contact the following:

**Jessica Landman** - [jlandman@edf.org](mailto:jlandman@edf.org)

*Director, European Oceans Program*

**Erin Priddle** - [epriddle@edf.org](mailto:epriddle@edf.org)

*UK Fisheries Manager and NSAC*

**Kees Lankester** - [scomber@xs4all.nl](mailto:scomber@xs4all.nl)

*Independent consultant (technical measures framework)*

**NSAC advice “10-1617 Introduction of Plaice to the Landing Obligation”** was approved by the Executive Committee via a written procedure on 10<sup>th</sup> May. This advice has been sent to the Presidency of the Scheveningen High Level Group and the Director General of DG Mare, European Commission. The advice is now available on the NSAC website; <http://nsrac.org/>.

### **BALTFISH/Member States**

**The first meeting of the BALTFISH Forum** will take place on 31st August 2017, followed by a High Level Group on 1st September 2017. The meeting will discuss, among other things, the fishing opportunities for 2018. The Danish admin inform that the Forum meeting will probably start at about 13hrs. It will take place at the Danish Agri Business Agency in central Copenhagen. Then there is talk of a possible workshop on recreational fisheries, which could be held together with the BSAC (mentioned at BSAC meetings in Stockholm) later in the year.

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

**No inter-AC meeting (Commission meeting with the ACs) is planned before the summer break**

### **Conservation of fisheries through technical measures: deal on Council negotiating position 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Follow the link for more, including the General Approach agreed by Council and which is the consolidated version of the Presidency compromise on technical measures as agreed by the Council working groups on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 (Netherlands and Denmark voted against, and Germany abstained). A Danish official has explained to us that Denmark voted against the proposal because Denmark could not see sufficient flexibility in the provisions for the Baltic with respect to the use and development of fishing gears.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/05/11-conservation-fisheries-technical-measures/>

And more information on this here: The Agriculture and Fisheries Council agreed its position on a proposal for new rules on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems, often referred to as technical measures. The Council's position builds on a Commission proposal that aims at modernising the existing rules on how and where fishermen may fish. These cover the taking and landing of fisheries resources, the specifications and operation of fishing gear, and measures to mitigate their impact on sensitive species or areas. "Until now European fishermen have had to respect more than 30 different regulations", said Roderick Galdes, Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal rights, "an overly difficult and burdensome legislative framework. We want to make their life easier, guarantee legal certainty and focus on innovation. Better and clearer rules will help protect our seas and the sustainability of our fishery resources. And most of all, the Council position empowers the fishing community by giving it more direct say in the decision-making process. The Council's position on technical measures further improves the coherence of the Commission proposal with existing EU law and enhances two key elements: simplification and regionalisation. In particular the text streamlines the procedure for regional cooperation and strengthens the role of member states' joint recommendations, in line with the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The Council general approach also strikes a balance between the current rules allowing for lawful fisheries' practices, which may be maintained in order to guarantee business continuity, and the need to provide for viable and innovative solutions in the future.

The European Parliament Fisheries Committee members now have until 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to come with their proposed amendments.

### **Applications for the selection of members of the multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal**

On Monday 22 May, the Commission adopted a Decision establishing the multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU. Also launched is the call for applications for the selection of members of the platform in the Commission's expert group register. You can find all relevant information on the website of the expert group register:

([http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=calls.calls\\_for\\_app](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=calls.calls_for_app)).

The call for applications will be open **until 26 June 2017**.

For more information, contact:

[Dovile.VAIGAUKAITE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Dovile.VAIGAUKAITE@ec.europa.eu)

### **New to the Advisory Council force at DG Mare**

Pascale Colson has joined the Advisory Council team and will primarily deal with the Long Distance, the Aquaculture and the Markets Advisory Council. [Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu)

### **Closing workshop of the pilot project "Creation of a European Coastguard Action" 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 Lisbon**

Due to other commitments, no one is able to go from the BSAC.

### **The Commission has published its report on the evaluation of the control regulation**

Find more information by following the link below:

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/respect-fishing-rules-has-improved-past-years-more-needs-be-done-achieve-full-compliance-reveals\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/respect-fishing-rules-has-improved-past-years-more-needs-be-done-achieve-full-compliance-reveals_en)

The Commission has invited ACs to let them know if they want to have this report presented by DG MARE and discussed at an upcoming meeting.

### **European Court of Auditors special report “EU fisheries controls: more efforts needed” (No 8/2017), led by Court Member Janusz Wojciechowski.**

The auditors say that while Member States and the European Commission have made progress over the last decade, the EU does not yet have a sufficiently effective system of fisheries controls to support the Common Fisheries Policy. More efforts are therefore needed. The auditors visited four Member States: Spain, France, Italy and the UK (Scotland). None of the four had sufficiently verified the accuracy of their fishing fleets' capacity or the information on the vessels in their fleet registers. None had verified the tonnage of their fishing vessels, and two had not verified engine power. Additionally, the auditors found significant discrepancies between vessel details in the fleet register and those in supporting documents. Overall, say the auditors, the Member States examined were implementing fisheries management measures adequately. Satellite-based vessel tracking systems provided powerful information for monitoring and controlling fishing activities. But as a result of exemptions provided by the Control Regulation, 89% of the EU fleet was not monitored, which hindered effective management in some fisheries and for some species. *“Member States have not yet fully implemented the EU’s fisheries control regulation,” said Mr Janusz Wojciechowski, the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the report, “and some of the regulations need modifying if Member States are to control their fisheries effectively.”* Consult the special report and the press release in 23 EU languages by clicking:

<http://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=41459>

Contact the ECA for further information related to the Court’s work, or visit website [eca.europa.eu](http://eca.europa.eu).

### **Innovative blue growth projects joined European Maritime Day 2017 in Poole, England on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

15 innovative new blue growth projects funded through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) were present at European Maritime Day this year - all of which are winners of the blue career, blue labs and blue technology calls. **European Maritime Day (EMD)** is the key annual meeting point for Europe’s maritime community to network, discuss and forge joint action. The EMD 2017 conference and exhibition took place from 18-19 May 2017 in Poole, in the UK, with up to 1000 participants.

The objective of the EMFF-funded projects present at the EMD 2017 was to network, have visibility and take advantage of being at the biggest gathering of maritime stakeholders in Europe.

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/innovative-blue-growth-projects-join-european-maritime-day-2017>

### **The Commission’s Communication on Fishing Opportunities 2017**

It is expected to be published on **20<sup>th</sup> June 2017** (too late for presentation at the BSAC Joint WG group 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June 2016). Commission informs that there will be a different set up this year, as the Commission will be reporting on the implementation of the CFP. It will be presented at the BSAC Executive committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### **Commission seminar on the State of the Stocks Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Brussels**

The date is confirmed. We wait to hear more.

### **European Commission adopts action plan to improve in Estonian fisheries control system** 10/05/2017

The European Commission has adopted an action plan setting out how Estonia can overcome identified shortcomings in its fisheries control system, following an audit programme on data management and control

system in Estonian in 2015 and 2016. This closely follows the plans recently adopted for Germany and Belgium. The measures and timeline of implementation were agreed together with the Estonian authorities, in line with the procedure set out in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 on fisheries control.

Under the action plan, Estonia will work to improve data management; principally ensuring that catch data are comprehensively collected within the required time limits, validated, cross-checked, exchanged with other countries and applied to ensure effective monitoring and reporting of quota uptake. In addition, Estonia will improve the coordination between the relevant authorities involved in the control of marketing standards and traceability, and ensure that an effective risk-based analysis is applied to ensure inspections are targeted effectively.

Action plans are an effective way to enforce the Common Fisheries Policy in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue. With their clear timeframes, benchmarks and reporting deadlines, they allow the Commission to follow up on the implementation and the progress made, and have been shown to obtain good results; as proven, for example, by the closed action plan with Latvia and the ongoing plan with Finland. They help to ensure that Member States have set up appropriate administrative and technical structures and systems to ensure monitoring, control and enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy rules and thereby contribute to the sustainability of fisheries.

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/european-commission-adopts-action-plan-improve-estonian-fisheries-control-system\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/european-commission-adopts-action-plan-improve-estonian-fisheries-control-system_en)

#### **EFCA Administrative Board meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Vigo**

The NWWAC is currently AC representative of the Advisory Board there, since no changes have been made to the rotating representation schedule. The NWWAC asked if there are issues to be raised at this meeting. ExCom members were asked to give feedback/input by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. BSAC has not has input.

Also attached from the NWWAC a short report on the results of the EFCA Administrative Board meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.  A formal report from the EFCA secretariat will be available in June.

#### **European Fisheries Control Agency Seminar on the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of the EFCA. Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

The seminar will take place in Auditorio Mar de Vigo, Vigo, Spain. The draft agenda of the seminar and the evaluation report will be sent shortly. For the first time, the Agency has offered two places to this evaluation, so a representative of the other interest group from the ExCom can take part. The BSAC chair is unfortunately not able to take part: we consulted honorary chair, WG chairs to see who can stand in for him and wrote to ExCom members. EFCA is informed that Staffan Larsson will represent fisheries interests at the meeting. No name been forwarded by the Other Interest Group.

#### **REMINDER: SENT 100517 all BSAC members about European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group of independent science advisers (SAM HLG)**

Commissioner Vella has requested a scientific opinion from the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group of independent science advisers (SAM HLG) on 'how can more food for humankind be extracted sustainably from the ocean'. (The initial scoping paper drawn up for this Scientific Opinion can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm?pg=oceanfood> ) The plan of SAM HLG is to deliver its Scientific Opinion by December 2017. A key milestone will be an invitation-only expert workshop on 14 September 2017 in Brussels. In this workshop, the SAM HLG wishes to subject the best available scientific evidence accumulated by top scientists on the subject to critique and commentary by top level experts working in sectors where the practical relevance and feasibility of the scientific knowledge is premium (i.e. scientists and experts working in industry, government agencies, NGOs, etc.). DG Mare is asking for volunteers who:

1. Consider they have the expertise and authority to critique scientific evidence from a practical/ applied standpoint on one or other of the seven sub-components into which the SAM HLG has broken down the main question (see list below\*)
2. Can send at short notice a short CV/ bio indicating their expertise in a way which can be related to one or other of the seven sub-components

3. Would be available and willing to take part in the workshop on 14 September next.

The choice of invitees will be made in the coming weeks by the project Steering Group on the basis of the CVs and biographies gathered. After that more formal contact will be established.

If you are interested, please send your details as soon as possible (before the end of May) to James Gavigan in the HLG SAM secretariat or contact him for further details at:

+32 229-64650

[james.gavigan@ec.europa.eu](mailto:james.gavigan@ec.europa.eu)

**The Commission has adopted a regulation which amends the EU definition of fishmeal** It will include starfish belonging to the phylum Echinodermata, subphylum Asterozoa and other farmed aquatic invertebrates (such as polychaete worms) other than molluscs and crustaceans within the definition of "aquatic animals" which may be used for the production of fishmeal. The terms fish oil is also amended accordingly.

**EUMOFA Monthly highlights Number 4-2017: check out sprat**

On page 6, section 1.1.2 it has a focus on sprat in Estonia, Latvia and Sweden  
<http://www.eumofa.eu/monthly-highlights>

**The Commission "Our Ocean Conference 2017" 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Malta**

The theme will be "An Ocean for Life", and it will be hosted by the European Union. Marine pollution is one of the key topics with a focus on marine litter. The Commission has called on aquaria in the EU to showcase this problem and has prepared information packages for dissemination.

**Draft delegated act on the functioning of the ACs published for feedback , 11 May 2017**

Evangelia Georgitsi, Team Leader, Common fisheries Policy has informed that in line with the new procedures in place for the use of delegated powers by the Commission, the draft delegated act amending the delegated regulation on the functioning of the Advisory Councils has now been published on the "better regulation portal" for feedback. You can find the draft regulation here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-2377410\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-2377410_en)

It will be published for 4 weeks and then we will launch the adoption procedure, which should be completed end June at the latest. BSAC ExCom has been consulted and asked for comments/input. No one has had comments. The Markets Advisory Council has drafted a letter as response to the draft Delegated Act and seeks clarification from the Commission on some issues. The BSAC Secretariat has consulted the ExCom on this: no comments/objections sent to this letter. We have replied to the Markets AC to say BSAC does not have any problems with the proposed changes to the Delegated Act, but supports its letter as an initiative to seek clarification and explanations from the Commission. MAC letter attached 

**Newsletter: Trawler – May 2017 prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries**

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

**Next Fisheries Committee meeting: 21/22 June 2017**

**Next hearings: "Consumption of fish in Europe: new forms of food education" 21 June 2017, 15.00 - 17.00**

**"The role of advisory councils in the new regionalised CFP" 12 July 2017, 15.00 - 17.00**

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

### **The report from the EMODnet checkpoint stakeholder meeting is now available – see below**

On 14-15 February 2017, more than 150 marine data providers, users and enthusiasts gathered in Brussels for the [first EMODnet Stakeholder Conference](#). Over the course of a day and a half, EMODnet experts and interested stakeholders discussed whether marine data collected via current observation and monitoring activities in Europe, satisfy the needs of those who rely upon it. The Conference centred on the innovative approaches taken by a series of EMODnet data stress tests, also known as Sea-basin Checkpoints, to evaluate whether the marine data currently available at the level of the sea basins is fit for purpose. The aim of the Checkpoints is to assess if the quality and availability of the data are sufficient.

Over the course of the meeting, the Checkpoints showcased the results of their work to date, highlighting where they have identified major gaps or bottlenecks towards improving Europe's observation capacity. Stakeholders were actively engaged in the discussion of these results and contributed to a wide range of recommendations to improve European marine data collection and sharing efforts, and to making progress towards a coherent European Ocean Observing System. The conference report provides a high-level summary of the Conference and associated break-out workshops.

The headline findings presented at the conference and in the report are underpinned by comprehensive assessments and should be considered in the context of the full and detailed [Data Adequacy Reports](#).  
**[http://www.emodnet.eu/sites/emodnet.eu/files/public/EMODnet Checkpoints conf report.pdf](http://www.emodnet.eu/sites/emodnet.eu/files/public/EMODnet_Checkpoints_conf_report.pdf)**

### **The BENTHIS Final Symposium: Benthic Ecosystem Fisheries Impact Studies 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Brussels**

During this one day symposium, the results of EU project BENTHIS will be presented and discussed. The meeting will be particularly relevant for policy makers, fisheries managers, environmental managers, fishing industry representatives, NGO's and scientist.

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/BENTHIS-Final-Symposium>

### **OCEANA at the peoples meeting on Bornholm 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

OCEANA members have asked us to inform about their planned activities at the so-called people's meeting which has now become a regular annual event for those who want to meet and discuss topics of general political relevance: not just fisheries.

They will be arranging:

- Workshop Experience from Øresund – advantages for the ecosystem of banning trawls. You can hear about the implications of a joint Swedish-Danish protected area and you can hear about what OCEANA are doing to protect Øresund: On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 kl. 11:00-12:00, the fishing boat H16 Anton belonging to the Danish organisation "Landsforeningen Levende Hav" in Allinge
- A pop-up-event: "For cod's sake – give Baltic Sea a future to draw attention to the iconic species cod which plays a major role for the environment and the communities of the Baltic: On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16. June B99 Pop-up event at Nordlandspladsen
- Taking part in the debate on "Fish norway lobster with creels – from a brutal to a selective and climate friendly fishery" this will be a debate with Living SeaDanish Fishermen PO, the FSK, Association for Low Impact Coastal Fishery and the Danish Nature Conservation Society. They will be discussing sustainable fishing, and how the consumer should be using his/her influence: On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June kl. 10:40-11:40, C25 Folkeoplysningens Telt Cirkuspladsen

Programme attached (in Danish) [./.](#)

And if you want to see more about seal safe and the work with creel nets which keep the cod safely within and the seals out, the Danish newspaper Fishing News:

<http://fiskeritidende.dk/tejner-kan-fange-torsk-og-holde-saeler-ude/>

### **The MareFrame project: a workshop: proposed date Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017, Copenhagen**

Reminder of what MareFrame is: MareFrame seeks to remove barriers preventing a more widespread use of an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). There have been no objections from ExCom members to the proposed date of Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 for the final workshop. So I have confirmed the date with Valerio Bartolino, responsible for the project coordination in the Baltic. Valerio Bartolino has sent the invitation to those stakeholders who have been participating in the MareFrame work for the Baltic.

### **BONUS Symposium ‘Science delivery for sustainable use of the Baltic Sea living resources’ hugely popular! October 17.-19. 2017 two successful BONUS program funded projects with the participation, Tallinn**

Coordination of Estonian partners - INSPIRE (coordinated by the Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu) and BIO-C3 (Estonian partner the Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu) will organize a symposium Science Delivery for Sustainable Use of the Baltic Sea Living Resources at the Tallinn University Conference Centre (Narva Rd. 29, Tallinn, Estonia). On 22nd May the abstract submission for the first BONUS symposium was completed with an impressive 108 submissions. The symposium will be held in Tallinn, Estonia on 17-19 October 2017

The symposium will summarise the recent scientific findings on the spatio-temporal dynamics of Baltic Sea biodiversity, provide new insight in ecology of the main Baltic commercial fish species – cod, herring, sprat and flounder, and discuss improved assessment methods and tools for the management of marine living resources. The needs, opportunities and ways to incorporate the new scientific results into sustainable resource management, environmental protection and blue growth agenda will be discussed at a dedicated policy panel session. The BONUS Symposium ‘Science delivery for sustainable use of the Baltic Sea living resources’ is co-organised by Estonian Research Council and BONUS in cooperation with the International Council for Exploration of the Sea within the framework of Estonian presidency of the Council of the European Union.

More information can be found at [www.bonus-inspire.org/symposium/sessions](http://www.bonus-inspire.org/symposium/sessions) and

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/INSPIRE-Symposium>

### **CIRCULAR OCEAN INNOVATION CONFERENCE 2017 17<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY REYKJAVIK**

Join Circular Ocean in Reykjavik this July for our “Innovation Conference” which will gather Circular Ocean partners with members of the academic, creative and business communities to explore the opportunities around re-purposing waste Fishing Nets & Rope (FNR’s) in the Northern Periphery & Arctic Region.

Circular Ocean Innovation Conference will feature high quality presentations and unique innovation processes focused on the opportunities around the recycling and re-purposing of waste Fishing Nets and Rope (FNR’s) . The event will be an excellent forum for ideas and networking amongst business, policy, design, creative and fishing communities in the Northern Periphery & Arctic Region.

<http://www.circularocean.eu/circularevents/circular-ocean-innovation-conference/>

#### **Other information/reading**

#### **ICES advice 2017 for the Baltic commercial fisheries is here:**

[Baltic Sea Advisory Council This news doesn't reflect the views of the BSAC or its members  
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 1<sup>st</sup> floor | 1553 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 20128949| \[www.bsac.dk\]\(http://www.bsac.dk\)](http://ices.dk/publications/library/Pages/List-Search.aspx?k=#0ee8630b-6244-4748-a34d-8544e994db9f=%7B%22k%22%3A%22%22%2C%22o%22%3A%5B%7B%22d%22%3A0%2C%22p%22%3A%22Title%22%7D%5D%2C%22r%22%3A%5B%7B%22n%22%3A%22owstaxIdPublicationType%22%2C%22t%22%3A%5B%22string(%5C%22%2307e57de4c-131f-4b00-8017-a22aa319b7d4%5C%22)%22%5D%2C%22o%22%3A%22and%22%2C%22k%22%3Afalse%2C%22m%22%3Anull%7D%2C%7B%22n%22%3A%22owstaxIdPublicationYear%22%2C%22t%22%3A%5B%22string(%5C%22%230872c62be-5945-46b6-9fcd-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

<http://www.ices.dk/community/get-involved/Pages/List-of-ICES-observers.aspx>

### **On the ICES website – the list of observers to ICES**

<http://www.ices.dk/community/get-involved/Pages/List-of-ICES-observers.aspx>

### **LIFE's Newsletter for April**

Check on their website:

[www.lifeplatform.eu](http://www.lifeplatform.eu)

### **European Commission calls all aquaria to join global awareness raising action about marine litter**

05/05/2017

Marine pollution is one of the key topics of the Our Ocean Conference. Every year millions of tons of litter end up in the ocean. It is estimated that by 2050 our seas could contain more plastic than fish. Aquaria are ideal partners to showcase this growing problem and to engage thousands of people, by presenting practical solutions. We are calling on aquaria to give their visitors a very vivid idea of how serious the issue is and what each of us can do about it. Any creative approach is welcome. Participating aquaria will be provided with written material, giving key facts on the issue and proposing actions to citizens to prevent and fight against marine litter. This action is scheduled to be launched in June. For more information, please contact:

[mare-communication@ec.europa.eu](mailto:mare-communication@ec.europa.eu).

### **First Baltic Sea sprat fishery certified (MSC, 23rd May 2017)**

The Latvian Fishermen's Producers Organization (LFPO) has achieved certification to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standard for their sprat fishery in the Central Baltic Sea. The LFPO fishery is the first Baltic Sea sprat fishery to become certified. Sprat is one of several stocks included in a multiannual management plan for the Baltic Sea that was adopted in 2016.

Minna Epps, MSC Program Director for Scandinavia and Baltic Sea Region says: "The certification of the LFPO Latvian sprat fishery is very positive for the Baltic Sea Region. It illustrates the strength of having a multi-species EU long-term management plan in place and demonstrates that Baltic Sea fisheries can meet the rigorous MSC Standard. The outcome of the assessment process can inspire other countries and fleets that target the same stock. The Finnish sprat fishery is already in assessment and other countries may follow."

**Mr Inarijs Voits, Chairman of the LFPO Board** says:

"It has taken time to get all the fishermen on-board and to see the advantages of MSC certification. The MSC sprat certificate will open doors to new markets that were previously closed to Latvian fishermen. The certification also comes with some new responsibilities for the fishermen. Our organisation will monitor the process and collect data on catches and MSC certified sprat export. We think this certification will bring many new advantages in the future."

**The Polish Parliament (Sejm) has amended the fisheries legislation by removing the possibility of quota exchanges between boat owners.** Possibility of quota transfer between vessels of the same owner remains. (Source: <http://www.portalmorski.pl>)

26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Until now, vessel owners could transfer unused quota to another vessel owner. The purpose of this was more effective use of the fishing quota, but it has led to trading in quotas between individual vessel owners.

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

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 1<sup>st</sup> floor | 1553 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 20128949 | [www.bsac.dk](http://www.bsac.dk)

According to the information, the most important amendment consists of preventing the transfer of quotas between the owners so as to exclude the possibility of selling fishing quotas.

It is still possible to transfer fishing quotas between vessels which belong to the same owner.

The Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Waterways is of the opinion that individual fishing quotas which cannot be used by fishermen should be left to the disposal of the Ministry responsible for fisheries and distributed among fishermen.

**Did you know that 90-95% of the Danish caught fish is exported and that 80% of the fish eaten in Denmark is imported? And do you want to watch some Danish TV?**

The Danish campaign eat fish twice a week has drawn our attention to a TV programme called "Mad on fish" where two Danish chefs look into how to get tusk, hake, flounder and other top quality Danish fish out to the consumer. In their programme they interview fishermen, and experts in healthy eating and exercise. So, if you want to practice your Danish, follow the link:

<https://www.dr.dk/tv/se/vild-med-fisk/-/temaloerdag-vild-med-fisk-2>

**The Fisheries Secretariat has produced its own summary of the ICES advice for 2018 Baltic fisheries**

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/06/01/ices-releases-2018-advice-for-baltic-sea-fish-stocks/>

**The Union of German Cutter Fishery highlights the ICES advice for 2017 (in German)**

It focuses on the main stocks: cod, western Baltic herring, sprat and plaice and has a few comments on the implications of the advice for German fishermen: it foresees even more difficult conditions for fishermen next year:

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

**Danish Ministry of Environment and Food has the headline: cod quotas go up in the west but go down in the east 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

It concentrates its press release on the ICES advice for cod, with the ICES recommended TACs for western and eastern cod. It adds that in the longer run, things can be expected to improve, with 2019 being a better year in the western Baltic, when the cod, still too small to catch now, will have grown bigger. News in Danish:

[http://mfvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/torskekvoter-i-oestersoeen-gaar-frem-i-vest-men-tilbage-i-oest/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=fvm\\_nyhedsmail&utm\\_campaign=torskekvoter-i-stersen-gr-frem-i-vest-men-tilbage-i-st&cHash=513124523e5705bd836f26defd7519ac](http://mfvm.dk/nyheder/nyhed/nyhed/torskekvoter-i-oestersoeen-gaar-frem-i-vest-men-tilbage-i-oest/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=fvm_nyhedsmail&utm_campaign=torskekvoter-i-stersen-gr-frem-i-vest-men-tilbage-i-st&cHash=513124523e5705bd836f26defd7519ac)

**European Anglers Alliance has news and comments on the Commission's new criteria concerning the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The Commission adopted new criteria on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The EAA reports on that, focuses in particular on descriptor 3 which states that populations of fish and shellfish must be within safe biological limits. The EAA has been involved mostly with that descriptor. It links comments on that to the outcome by Fisheries Council on the technical measures regulation and the maximum 5% allowance of catches of undersized fish. Read here:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/10598/healthy-fish-stocks-and-marine-waters-the-marine-strategy-framework-directive.html>

**The Association of Fisheries protection has a short report from taking part at the BSAC General Assembly and Executive Committee**

At the meetings, the small scale fisheries organisation was approved as member of the Executive Committee:

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

**WWF Denmark is working with some of the Danish supermarkets to make sure the consumer knows that the fish product he or she is about to buy is sustainably sourced 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017**

This is a three year project which the supermarket association Dansk Supermarked Gruppe has begun together with WWF Denmark. In Danish here. And contact Christophe Matihesen at WWF Denmark.

<http://www.wwf.dk/?19660/Slut-med-truede-fisk-i-Netto-ftex-og-Bilka>

**Swedish Fishermen Producer Organisation writes: The Fisheries Secretariat: an organisation that works against the Swedish commercial fishermen and which is financed from public money: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017**

Peter Ronelöv Olsson, chairman of the Swedish Fishermen Producer Organisation has written a lead article about the Fisheries Secretariat which, he writes, works against the interests of Swedish commercial fishermen and which is funded by tax payers' money. In Swedish. He also has comments about the organisations which created it: WWF, the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation and the Swedish Sports Fishermen. The article is in Swedish:

<http://www.sfpo.se/nyheter/fiskesekretariatet---en-organisation-som-motarbetar-svenskt-yrkesfiske-och-som-finansieras-via-skattsedeln>

**HELCOM meetings and news**

**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**

The outcome report is attached [./.](#)

**Outcome of the 16th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 16-2017), Helsinki, Finland, 23-24 May 2017**

The Outcome of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 16-2017), held in Helsinki, Finland, 23-24 May 2017 is attached [./.](#)

**Outcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries Helsinki, FISH Finland, 22-24 May 2017**

Attached [./.](#)

Plus a short report from the two BSAC members who took part [./.](#)

**The HELCOM Workshop on river restoration and “best practices” (FISH-M 4-2017) held on 29-30 May 2017 in Bredsten, Denmark.**

The outcome and presentations of the Meeting have been made available and the report from HELCOM is here:

[./.](#)

**The HELCOM SPICE Workshop on microlitter (HELCOM SPICE ML WS 1-2017), Helsinki, Finland, 7-8 November 2017**

The aim of the workshop is to discuss the results achieved through Theme 2 of the SPICE project, aiming at developing marine litter indicators towards operationalization and prepare a proposal for the assessment of marine litter in HOLAS II. The focus of workshop will be on microlitter:

- sampling environments (i.a. water surface, water column, sediment, biota),
- options for sampling (i.a. manta trawl, Baby-Bongo net, box core), and
- analytical methods (i.a. stereo microscopy, Raman, FTIR, chemical digestion, enzyme digestion)

The Workshop is aimed at nationally nominated experts and management representatives of HELCOM Contracting Parties. Please inform on the nominations by email to [marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi).

**Fishermen's health and safety**

Nothing of news, but fishermen go safely.