

Dear members,

BSAC news and meetings and other ACs

ExCom meeting 29th June 2017: output

Deadline for comments was extended to allow for holidays. Please see the meeting report on the website here:

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

Coming BSAC meetings:

BSAC sub-group on ecosystem based management Tuesday 3rd October 2017, Copenhagen

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/Executive-Committee-and-sub-group-on-ecosystem-bas>

Please sign up by **19th September 2017**. And if you do sign up, please remember to do the homework about seals.

BSAC Executive Committee meeting Tuesday 7th November 2017, National Marine Research Institute Gdynia

Thanks to the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, MIR, the BSAC can hold its meeting there. The kind offer was made by the director of the Institute Emil Kuzebski and the BSAC was happy to accept. The meeting will be planned to start early (hotel accommodation offered), so the ExCom business can be dealt with first thing, followed by focus on selectivity in the trawl fishery and technical measures, with invited experts. Invitation and draft agenda to follow.

DG Mare Director General consultation of the BSAC on eel: reply sent

For the record, the BSAC proposals for possible ways forward to improve the situation of European eel (finalised Friday 1st September 2017) are on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-proposals-for-possible-ways-forward-to-improv>

The Commission's Consultation on fishing opportunities: sent on 6th September 2017

For the record, the document sent to DG Mare is on the BSAC website:

<http://www.bsac.dk/BSAC-Resources/BSAC-Statements-and-recommendations/BSAC-contribution-to-the-Commission-Consultation-o>

We don't yet see it on the website of the DG Mare consultation. The BSAC recommendations for the fisheries have been uploaded.

NWWAC initiative: a meeting on the functioning of the ACs Dublin 15th September 2017

On Friday 15 September 2017 from 11:00-15:00 is a special session Functioning of the Advisory Councils. The NWWAC informs that all are most welcome to participate in the discussion on the ACs. Here's the agenda:

http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/AGENDA_V2_0_Functioning_ACs_NWWAC_Dublin_Sept_2017_EN.pdf

A report has been promised to me.

Baltic Sea 2020 on representation to the BSAC

Conrad Stralka, Executive Director BS2020 has informed of BS2020's proposal for next year's (2018) TAC for the Eastern Baltic Sea cod stock: BalticSea2020 supports that the TAC for 2018 (eastern cod stock) is set in accordance with the precautionary approach, as proposed by ICES. Furthermore Baltisea2020 proposes that no quotas are allocated to trawlers. This is due to the scientific uncertainty regarding the stock development, the lack of accountability and control and the increasing numbers of discard within the trawl fishery. Moreover, Mogens Schou (who has represented BS2020 in the BSAC) and the Foundation, has chosen to resign as representative for BalticSea2020. We wait to hear who will represent the Foundation in the future.

The Confederation of Fishermen and Fish Processors of West Lithuania: representation

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

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Erika Lapaitė-Bruziene, ExCom substitute for Algirdas Ausra has left to seek new horizons. Her replacement on the ExCom is Egle Smilgevic. Some of you met Egle at the Joint WG in Klaipeda in June this year. We wish every success to Erika and welcome Egle to the work of the BSAC.

BALTFISH/Member States

BALTFISH Forum 31st August 2017: Copenhagen

There was good attendance from the BSAC at the BALTFISH Forum. Reports from the pre-meeting and the Forum are finalised, sent to the participants and now on the BSAC website:

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

Moreover, the Danish administration has also sent a report from the meeting. Contact Secretariat if you want it.

And whither BALTFISH? Post BALTFISH?

We understand that the Danish Presidency will be travelling around the Baltic the coming weeks to discuss and hear the different opinions of the Baltic MS up to the October Council on 9th-10th October in Luxembourg. There will also be a special meeting of BALTFISH the day before the Council to prepare for the Council and finalise positions on the Baltic issues.

Commission/EU European Parliament / Control Agency news and meetings

EFCA Control Agency Advisory Board meeting 20th September 2017, Vigo

On behalf of the BSAC and stepping in for the BSAC chair, who is unable to attend, will be Staffan Larsson, Swedish Fishermen's Association. On the agenda are:

Proposed Draft Agenda:

1. Introduction and state of play:
 - ACs: state of play (including Brexit²).
2. EFCA's Annual work programme 2017 implementation
3. Administrative Board recommendations regarding the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA (2012-2016)
4. EFCA's draft Programming Document - Multiannual work programme 2018-2022 and Annual work programme 2018
5. Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board
6. AOB

Commission seminar Status of stocks seminar September 26th 2017 Brussels

Attending this seminar on behalf of the BSAC ExCom are Michael Andersen (Demersal WG chair) and Andrzej Bialas (OCEANA). Agenda here:

<http://fishstocks.onetec.eu/agenda.pdf>

And don't miss out: there will be web streaming on the day:

<http://fishstocks.onetec.eu/index.html>

Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities." Tallinn, Estonia 12-13 October 2017

The Estonian Presidency of the European Union and the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE), are organising a stakeholder conference on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), entitled "**Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities.**" This event will take place in **Tallinn, Estonia on 12-13 October 2017**. This conference will represent a unique opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the assessment of the financial support the EMFF provides in implementing the Common Fisheries Policy and the EU Maritime Policy over the current programming period (2014-2020) and to anticipate the form this support could take after 2020. It will take the form of plenary sessions and parallel workshops in which more than 70 selected speakers will encourage participants to contribute to the discussion. All stakeholders, including industry representatives, national and regional administrators, fisheries scientists, non-governmental organisations are encouraged to register early, knowing that participation is limited. You will find the agenda for this conference and practical information for registration on the conference webpage: <http://www.EMFF-now-and-then.eu>.



Commission proposes Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2018 with increased quotas for herring and salmon, Brussels, 29 August 2017 (European Commission, Press release, 29th August)

The Commission adopted a proposal for fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2018.

In particular, the Commission proposes to increase catches for Central Herring, Sprat and the Main Basin Salmon stocks, and to maintain the number of catches for the important stock of Western Baltic Cod. For the remaining stocks the Commission proposes reducing catches. This year's proposal also includes a ban on Baltic Eel fisheries, not traditionally a part of the annual allowable catch proposals but a necessary step due to alarming scientific evidence and historically low levels.

The proposed total allowable catches (TAC) for herring, cod, sprat and salmon stocks are based on scientific advice from ICES and follow the [Baltic multiannual management plan](#) adopted last year by Member States and the European Parliament.

Efforts by stakeholders in recent years have already succeeded in rebuilding important stocks in the Baltic. Between 2012 and 2016, for example, the overall biomass of pelagic stocks increased by 50%. But further action remains necessary to ensure all stocks are exploited at sustainable levels.

European Ministers for Fisheries will now examine the Commission proposal, with the aim of adopting it during the Fisheries Council of 9-10 October.

Goodbye from Evangelia Georgitsi and hello to Pascale Colson in DG Mare: ACs coordinator

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

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Pascale Colson has slowly taken over the coordination of the Advisory Councils. The ACs file remains in the CFP team and Pascale will liaise with Evangelia Georgitsi whenever necessary. Evangelia thanks all the Secretariats for the excellent collaboration during these last four years.

STECF annual report on economics of the fleet

https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/1820920/2017-08_STECF+17-12+-+AER_JRCxxx.pdf

European Parliament Pêche Committee newsletter Trawler August 2017

Read the return from the holidays message from Committee chairman Alain Cadec, then see what dossiers and meetings are on the agenda for the autumn:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/125785/Trawler%20August.pdf>

Next Pêche Committee 25th September 2017

Agenda: nothing Baltic this time (wait for October on the technical measures).

[http://www.emeeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/agenda/201709/PECH/PECH\(2017\)0925_1/sitt-6713919](http://www.emeeeting.europarl.europa.eu/committees/agenda/201709/PECH/PECH(2017)0925_1/sitt-6713919)

Other meetings – non EU - not exhaustive

ICES ACs and MIACO meetings: 2018

ICES has confirmed that the dates for the meetings are **18th and 19th January 2018**. It was confirmed at the 2017 meetings that the same format will continue in 2018: an ICES-ACs meeting in the morning of 18th January and then the MIACO meeting afterwards. The ACs agreed to joint ownership of the ICES-ACs meeting and to getting feedback on it and proposing subjects for the agenda. The BSAC will be the contact point for planning the January 2018 meeting which will be in Copenhagen. We are in touch with ICES about the venue. The ICES-ACs meeting could take place at the Danish Food and Agriculture Council, and possibly also the MIACO meeting.

Here's the official message from ICES:

“Dear ACs and other Observers,

The 2018 Meeting between ICES, Advisory Councils and other Observers (MIACO 2018) will take place on **Thursday 18th (13:00)–Friday 19th (13:00) January 2018** in Copenhagen, Denmark.

If you have items for the Agenda, please forward these to hgj@ices.dk. The draft Agenda will be available by mid-December.” Please send items to the BSAC Secretariat, which will collect and collate.

ICES Journal of Marine Science Editor's Choice – Fisheries connectivity in large marine ecosystems 7th September 2017

The latest Editor's Choice paper from the Journal of Marine Science is available. Read how connectivity – how much different fisheries are linked by fisher participation – varies in a Large Marine Ecosystem and impacts coastal community vulnerability:

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/IJMS-Editor's-Choice---Fisheries-connectivity-in-large-marine-ecosystems.aspx>

ICES September newsletter published

Marine litter and monitoring is one of the many subjects on the agenda of the 2017 ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) in Florida. It's featured in the latest ICES newsletter.

And read a preview of the ASC sessions for which ICES and PICES will be joining forces - covering climate change and bioinvasions. See here:

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/newsletters/Pages/Newsletter-September-2017.aspx>

FARNET conference: Beyond 2020 12th -13th October 2017: participation from the BSAC

The Estonian Presidency of the European Union and the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE), are organising a stakeholder conference "Beyond 2020: Supporting Europe's Coastal Communities" on 12- 13 October 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia. Stakeholders from all across the EU are invited to convene and discuss how the EMFF is helping to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Maritime Policy in the current programming period. The event will also be an opportunity to discuss the current and future challenges of coastal communities, as well as potential policy responses. The programme is here:

<http://www.emff-now-and-then.eu/events.html>

All stakeholders, including industry representatives, national and regional administrators, fisheries scientists, non-governmental organisations are encouraged to register early, knowing that participation is limited. Mart Undrest, BSAC Pelagic WG chair, will be there from the BSAC.

INSPIRE symposium 17th- 19th October 2017, in Tallinn, including a special stakeholders' round-table discussion during the last day for a few hours.

During the Estonian presidency, two successful BONUS programme funded projects, with the participation /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. It will take place at the Tallinn University Conference Centre. The conference will synthesize recent evidences in the Baltic Sea biodiversity and ecology of the main commercial fish species, incl. in relation to climate change and various human pressures. New and improved environmental and fish stock assessment methods and practical (e-) tools will be provided for the sustainable management of marine living resources, which assist to address several regional and EU legislative frameworks. The event will contribute to developing new e-solutions and information community in environmental and fisheries policy, but also strengthen partnership with eastern countries. The symposium will include five thematic sessions, one panel discussion and a poster session. The organisers of the event welcome the BSAC as an invited guest at the conference. The official invitation will be sent out after acceptance of submitted abstracts and finalisation of the conference programme. The Symposium will be preceded by the final annual meeting of the INSPIRE project.

All the agendas and meeting papers for the different meetings are here:

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

Pehr Eriksson (Swedish Fishermen's Federation) who has followed the INSPIRE project since its start and been the BSAC representative will be the BSAC participant and taking part on a stakeholder panel on the final day of the symposium.

Marelitt: removing derelict fishing gear from the sea (the dates have changed!)

On 17th-18th of October, MARELITT Baltic invites you to Kolobrzeg and the surrounding coastal harbours to hear about the retrieval of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea. In an authentic environment, this meeting offers a mix of first-hand experiences including a site-visit to the harbour where ghostnets are landed and also workshops presenting the initial results of the first 1.5 years of the MARELITT Baltic project.

Agenda:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58525fe86a4963931b99a5d1/t/59afc40bf5e231fa3dc9030c/1504691213307/Program+Kolobrzeg.pdf>

Final day for registration is Friday 29th September 2017.

Other information/reading

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

A LIFE Position Paper on ITQs

ITQs are often put in place with the stated purpose of reducing overcapacity and improving economic efficiency, but the failure to consider equity along with other human rights aspects (civil and political, social, economic and cultural) of fishing communities has meant that ITQs have disadvantaged SSCF and prejudiced their ability to enjoy their human rights". 23rd August

<http://lifepatform.eu/itqs-road-no-return/>

Plastics, marine litter and ghost nets

Fish mistaking plastic debris in ocean for food, study finds, The Guardian, 16th August

Behavioural evidence suggests marine organisms are not just ingesting microplastics by accident but actively seeking them out as food

Fish may be actively seeking out plastic debris in the oceans as the tiny pieces appear to smell similar to their natural prey, new research suggests.

The fish confuse plastic for an edible substance because microplastics in the oceans pick up a covering of biological material, such as algae, that mimics the smell of food, according to the study published on Wednesday in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Scientists presented schools of wild-caught anchovies with plastic debris taken from the oceans, and with clean pieces of plastic that had never been in the ocean. The anchovies responded to the odours of the ocean debris in the same way as they do to the odours of the food they seek.

The scientists said this was the first behavioural evidence that the chemical signature of plastic debris was attractive to a marine organism, and reinforces other work suggesting the odour could be significant.

The finding demonstrates an additional danger of plastic in the oceans, as it suggests that fish are not just ingesting the tiny pieces by accident, but actively seeking them out.

EU Maritime Affairs and Fish on marine litter, 22 August

On 27 July, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella launched the awareness-raising campaign "World Aquariums Against Marine Litter" together with HSH Albert II, Prince of Monaco; UN Environment Programme Executive Director Erik Solheim; and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) CEO Doug Cress at the iconic Oceanographic Museum of Monaco.

Ghost nets: The Clean Nordic Oceans workshop 16th August 2017 Copenhagen

The Nordic Council of Ministers is funding a three year project (2017-2019) with the working title: "A knowledge- and communication network between the Nordic countries in order to reduce the consequences of ghost fishing, littering of the oceans and promote increased recycling from both commercial and recreational fishing".

Lots of interesting things going on in some of the Nordic countries to tackle ghost fishing and littering of the ocean

Report attached (it goes on a bit) [./](#).

The presentations from the workshop are now available on their website:

<http://cnogear.org/news/vellykjet-workshop-for-cno>

Short report from the Nordic seminar Wednesday 23rd August Copenhagen: a new model for Baltic-Nordic macro-regional collaboration?

Danish ambassadors always assembly in Copenhagen during August: called home to discuss their work, exchange experiences and meet with the Danish ministries and administrations. The Nordic Council of Ministers invited some of them, from: Iceland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Latvia to talk about the challenges that globalisation is presenting and how they think the Baltic-Nordic countries should be reacting. The topic was presented by a keynote speech from one of the co-authors of the annual Baltic State of the Region Reports Dr Christian Ketels. The word "fish" was only used once, to refer to the region as a small fish on the global level. The Baltic-Nordic region has seen positive development. But since the 1990's have come threats from terrorism and the financial crisis, and more recently Brexit, political developments in Ukraine and vis à vis Russia, as well as the new political leadership in the United States. How to build on the existing cooperation in the region? Business as usual is not the option. There's a need to reflect on the changing world. Can the Baltic-Nordic region play a new role and form a new model for macro-regional collaboration? Have influence? Organise a common voice for the region? Or just wait for Berlin to provide the lead?

The ambassador from Iceland saw Nordic cooperation as a given thing; regretted the fact that mutual linguistic understanding of the Nordic languages was dying out.

The ambassador from Latvia said there was a lack of strong institutions to keep things together: there is a good infrastructure and inclusiveness, but when the going gets tough, there's a need to turn to strong institutions.

The ambassador from Lithuania said there's a very strong will for Nordic-Baltic cooperation, but the countries are all very different. Since Brexit, governments will be looking for many different partners to pursue their interests.

The ambassador from Norway said Norway tends to take Nordic cooperation for granted, has an interest in and a big understanding of cooperation - also with the Baltic. Takes Brexit seriously and Norway is trying to find platforms to express different forms of alliance with the EU.

The ambassador from Sweden: Denmark and Sweden are strong movers in the relationship with the Baltic. How to ensure trade and an inclusive, free and non-protectionist economy, whilst at the same time maintaining social issues?

This was all very well, said the keynote speaker, but he did feel that the ambassadors didn't come forward with a vision: what sort of Europe do they want to see?

Finally, in the closing questions and answers, it emerged that the Nordic countries are not ready to become one Nordic unit: they feel more comfortable with being separate! But there was a recognition of the four freedoms of the EU, but also an awareness of the agreements now forged with Canada and Japan; the need to fight against terrorism. Bottom up is important: vision is also needed to make the Nordic area the most integrated area; to strengthen a basic community of values and the feeling of being together. Brexit is a challenge: there are different signals going out e.g. from Iceland and Norway, so working together is a challenge.

Dr Ketels ended with his own challenge: maybe the Danish ambassadors could write a paper on competitiveness in the future of Europe and send it to the Commission+

The Fisheries Secretariat reports on: Return of M74 syndrome in Baltic salmon strengthens the case for spatial management of sprat 24th August 2017

Over the past year there has been a significant increase in the M74 syndrome which has blighted salmon stocks in the Baltic Sea. This reproductive disorder is known to occur more often when sprat forms too large a part of the salmon diet.

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/08/24/return-of-m74-syndrome-in-baltic-salmon-strengthens-the-case-for-spatial-management-of-sprat/>

Fisheries Secretariat also reports on: Commission Baltic proposals: Roll over western cod quota but ban eel fishing 29th August 2017

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/08/29/commission-proposes-baltic-tacs-controversial-rollover-for-western-baltic-cod/>

Danish newspaper Fishing News reports on the Commission's proposal for Baltic TACs 9th September 2017

A series of articles report from fishermen who question the proposed closed periods for cod fishing: they say it will have a destructive effect on the fishery and are not logical, especially when the scientists say they do not have an effect. Another fisherman interviewed points to the positive increased number of younger cod and small cod. Seals are referred to as still being the biggest problem, according to a fisherman from Bornholm.

Fisheries Secretariat reports from the BALTFISH Forum 14th September 2017

<http://www.fishsec.org/2017/09/14/eel-no-longer-order-of-the-day-as-danish-presidency-of-baltfish-begins/>

Enjoy the video "Baltic salmon - A resource for the future" produced by the Baltic Salmon Fund with the contribution of the European Anglers Alliance 18th August 2017

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/11807/baltic-salmon-a-resource-for-the-future.html>

Baltic Sea 2020 reports on the Swedish Center Party which has written an article on what it refers to as the serious state of the cod in the Baltic 23rd August 2017

The Center Party criticizes the government for not taking the lead on fisheries policy and taking the problem of the Baltic cod seriously enough. According to the article, restricting the fishing quotas is not enough. Sweden should also be applying better control, updating what's allowed in terms of fishing gear and taking decisions based on the scientific advice. It also refers to various proposals to improve fish stocks in the Baltic. One example, according to the article, is Baltic Sea 2020's project "Save the cod, protect the coastal fishery" which began earlier this year. The article here, it's in Swedish.:

<http://balticsea2020.org/pressrum/641-centerpartiet-om-torskens-allvarliga-situation-i-ostersjon>

Baltic Sea 2020 on the coming October Fisheries Council and decision on TACs and quotas 31st August 2017

In Swedish, stating that the Swedish minister of fisheries bears a heavy responsibility to ensure a healthy fisheries policy. According to Baltic 2020 the Baltic cod is genetically unique and in a very critical situation. It calls for drastic measures to save the cod. In Swedish:

<http://balticsea2020.org/pressrum/644-avgorande-skede-for-ostersjotorsken>

From the European Anglers Alliance on tagging the bluefin tuna

Markus Lundgren informs of the bluefin tuna tagging project, which he adds is very unique and also a positive example of fish stocks returning after decades of overfishing. There are hopes to do some tagging in SD 23/Öresund, which is the outermost border of the bluefin tuna and there have been good observations there from the last few weeks:

<http://www.eaa-europe.org/news/11904/successful-bluefin-tuna-tagging-in-sweden-and-denmark.html>

The Danish newspaper Fisheries News will also report on this project in its edition 16th September 2017.

OCEANA reports on the Commission's proposal for TACs in the Baltic 30/08/2017

European Commission proposes Baltic cod catch limits four times higher than considered sustainable.

<http://eu.oceana.org/en/press-center/press-releases/european-commission-proposes-baltic-cod-catch-limits-four-times-higher>

From Our Fish: on how they think Denmark can make fisheries fair and sustainable 30th august 2017

Our Fish states on its website it works to ensure European member states implement the Common Fisheries Policy and achieve sustainable fish stocks in European waters. About Our fish here:

<http://our.fish/en/about/>

Their article on Denmark here:

<http://our.fish/en/2017/08/30/new-report-explores-how-denmark-can-make-fisheries-fair-and-sustainable/>

Low Impact Fishers of Europe

LIFE on eel

LIFE says "The annual European Commission proposals for 2018 Baltic Sea Fishing Opportunities includes a total ban on any eel fisheries in the maritime waters of the Region. At LIFE, we think there are better ways to protect this stock than simply instituting a total ban on exclusively small-scale marine fishing in just one EU region: learn more on our proposals."

<http://lifeplatform.eu/saving-european-eel-small-scale-fishermen/>

From Coalition Clean Baltic on eel

CCB welcomes EU Commission proposal to ban fishing for eel in the Baltic Sea 29th August 2017

<http://www.ccb.se/2017/08/ccb-welcomes-eu-commission-proposal-to-ban-fishing-for-eel-in-the-baltic-sea/>

Danish Researcher talks about an EU ban on the eel fishery: Eel has bigger problems: From Ingeniøren 5th September 2017

The Danish magazine "The Engineer" interviews Danish eel researcher Anders Koed from the Danish institute DTU Aqua. He explains that it's important to understand that there are all sorts of factors behind the difficulties that eel is experiencing, but it is possibly easier to regulate the fishery. It's not easy to create passageways for the eel at all water power plants or to solve other problems, he says. He goes on to say that many of the European rivers have been completely destroyed in relation to fish, and in particular where eel are affected. The article also reports on the ICES advice concerning eel and the Commission's proposal to ban the eel fishery. Anders Koed expresses doubts whether the eel fishery is that extensive that it has a critical effect on the eel and he adds that all initiatives that can have a positive effect on the eel stock are welcome. The article concludes with reference to the Danish eel management plan. Read the article (in Danish) here:

<https://ing.dk/artikel/forsker-eu-forbud-mod-aalefiskeri-aalen-har-meget-stoerre-problemer-204632>

Europêche on eel: Baltic fisheries shocked by EU proposal to ban the eel fishery 11th September 2017

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/baltic-fisheries-shocked-by-eu-proposal-to-ban-the-eel-fishery-154228>

Acting director Daniel Voces informs that he's aware that the message in the press release is rather strong, but the Europêche fishing representatives from the Baltic are quite frustrated with the EC's proposal. They hope that the Council of the EU can amend this controversial measure. (personal communication). He highlights the last paragraph of the first page of the press release:

'The fishing body also states that the running consultation process within the Baltic Advisory Council on general measures for eel recovery was neglected. The views of the stakeholders participating in this body were simply ignored, since the consultation has been just finalised and the EC launched its proposal without having analysed the views of those heavily impacted by this radical measure. This approach shows little respect for public consultations and fishermen's views.'

The Danish newspaper Fishing News reported on the proposed eel fishing ban 9th September 2017

It reports on the fact that the Commission's proposal has met with criticism amongst Danish politicians. It quotes the Danish minister Karen Ellemann as saying that if there is to be a regulation, then it should be pan-European, so all waters are included, not just the Baltic.

The German magazine "Fischerblatt" August 2017 on new eel for the Schlei waters

It features an article on the annual release of tiny eels into the waters of the Schlei in Maasholm, south east of Flensburg. MEP Ulrike Rodust is photographed together with the officials taking part.

WWF Baltic also has a statement supporting the proposed eel ban 29th August 2017

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/baltic/news/?309751/Stop-the-fishing-of-eel-in-the-Baltic-Sea

Europêche on lack of takeup of the EMFF funding 14th September 2017

<http://europeche.chil.me/post/lack-of-implementation-of-eu-funds-hampers-efforts-to-achieve-cfp-objectives-154866>

FARNET has a guide on Social inclusion for vibrant fishing communities

The guide provides tools for FLAGs to identify and effectively address social exclusion in fisheries areas. It is made up of two parts, each consisting of practical factsheets, and most of the examples and recommendations are based on the FARNET seminar that took place in March this year.

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet2/library/guide/farnet-guide-13-social-inclusion-vibrant-fishing-communities_en

Fishing News International September 2017:

Are cameras the answer to everything?

Is electronic monitoring technology (EMS) better for the industry? The article reports that EMS has long been in use on boats to reduce bycatch and prevent poaching. In the United States the use of cameras on board has been expanding since 2000. It gives examples of how it's been used in fisheries in Canada and the United States. And whilst EMS is in theory cheaper than having a real live observer on board, it's more effective for fisheries that use certain gears than others. Static gears lend themselves better to EMB than trawls, which have to be hauled onboard. Moreover, it can be a hassle to have observers onboard small vessels. Fishing News International has interviewed a representative from an organization called Ecology Action Centre who points out that when a project is developed with the industry it is more likely to work. Video and electronic monitoring is not suited to all fisheries, so there also have to be alternatives.....

Interview with Javier Garat, President of Europêche

There's a handsome picture of Javier at his desk. Javier talks at length about the major challenges of the landing obligation and Brexit. He also talks about IUU fishing, social conditions for fishermen and last of all quota allocation amongst the EU Member States.

A BIT FROM HELCOM

First Meeting of the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG Aquaculture), 26 September 2017, Helsinki, Finland

Documents so far uploaded for this:

- 4-1 Developing a BAT for Baltic Aquaculture
- 6-1 Contacts and Observers of CG Aquaculture

Eleventh Meeting of HELCOM ad hoc Seal Expert Group (SEAL 11-2017), Gothenburg, Sweden, 4–6 October 2017

Documents so far uploaded for this:

- Provisional Agenda
- Provisional Annotated Agenda
- 2-1 Extracts from recent HELCOM Meetings of relevance for Seal
- 2-2 Terms of reference for SEAL 11-2017
- 2-3 Study on aligning the assessments of MSFD GES with HD FCS regarding status for seal populations in the HELCOM area
- 3-1 Status of management plans for marine mammals
- 5-1 Recommendation 17_2 on Protection of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea area
- 8-1 Evaluation of Recommendation 27-28_2
- 9-1 List of contacts and observers of SEAL EG

Baltic Oiled Wildlife Response seminar and training event and the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 9-2017) will be held back-to-back at the HELCOM Secretariat premises (Katajanokanlaituri 6b) in Helsinki, Finland on **17-19 October 2017**.

Fishermen's health and safety

INTERREG: 1st call in early October

The Finnish and Danish Policy Area Coordinators for the Policy Area on Maritime Safety and Security of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region have a call for project platforms sent out by the **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme**. They have sent an information sheet about this specialized call directed at existing projects. Attached [./](#). The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme is organising a development event in November in connection with the call. The PACs would like to get in touch with stakeholders interested in applying for project platform funds within priority 3.4 (safe maritime transport and shipping). The topics in which the call will be open are: smart specialisation, clear waters, blue growth, interoperability, maritime safety and environmentally friendly shipping. It is expected that Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects will join forces with other Interreg, BONUS or similar projects, EUSBSR coordinators, other relevant organisations in the region, when developing proposals. Platforms of selected projects will be able to further promote their results, strengthen communication and cooperation with decision-makers in the topics they work for. They will be able to extend their networks (and get EU funding for this and other activities).

After the Monitoring Committee meeting in end September, the call will be opened and the announcement note published on their website. In October we will start consulting applicants who would like to develop a project platform. In November, a project development event will be arranged.

How can you get involved?

- You are welcome to join our development event in November and discuss with potential applicants and partners of platform initiatives the aims, set-up and your involvement in platform work.
- If you cannot join our event, please let us know, if you are interested in other wise to get in contact with platform partnerships in your thematic field.

The invitation to the event will be sent later in September.

Please get back to us if you have any questions, ideas or proposals.

Elena Kolosova, Project Officer,
Interreg Baltic Sea Region Joint Secretariat
Branch office at the Latvian State Regional Development Agency

The 13th International Maritime Conference Tallinn, Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel 29th September 2017

The conference is organised by the Estonian Shipowners Association, the TTÜ Estonian Maritime Academy and Corpore Conferences. The conference, which also marks World Maritime Day, has become a good tradition, bringing together representatives of Estonian and international maritime, transport, public and academic sectors and associated companies to debate key maritime issues, set new objectives and come up with solutions that are useful to whole Baltic and Nordic region economy and society as a whole. The main conference cooperation partners are: Tallink Group, the Port of Tallinn, the Port of Sillamäe, the Port of Kunda, DNV GL and Eesti Loots. All information about the conference is here:

<http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/External-events/13th-International-Maritime-Conference>

To register please contact Mr. Meelis Kopli, meelis.kopli@corpore.ee