

Weeks 46 - 47

BSRAC news and meetings

BS RAC ExCom meeting

Now announced. Will be on Wednesday 9th December in Gdynia, at the Sea Fisheries Institute (MIR). It starts at 9hrs and end at 16hrs. We have reserved hotel rooms at the Hotel Gdynia, so you can arrange to arrive the evening before. The invitation is here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1396&kind=4&pageld=1081

We'll send a revised agenda and attachments on Monday 23rd November.

ExCom members: you're sometimes the ones who give us late notice of attending this: sign up! Please remember to get mandates from members who can't attend.

Travel claims

BS RAC members: Travel claims missing from Stockholm conference and the Focus Group meeting in Copenhagen. Members journeys claims from the Focus Group on CFP deadline 27th November We really need these claims to update our accounts. *You know who you are.*

Commitment forms for BS RAC year 2010 - 2011

They start to arrive: a big thank you.

Letter from chairmen 5 RACs on the technical Measures now on our website here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1400&kind=11&pageld=1084

Commission news and meetings

Seminar on price formation for fisheries and aquaculture products

This will take place in Brussels on 10 December 2009. The seminar will be chaired by the Commission. It aims at gathering operators from the fishing and aquaculture industry (from first sale to retail, including wholesalers, processors and distributors) and civil society in order to improve knowledge about costs and prices all along the supply chain. There will be presentations of results from recent studies, and industry players will share their experiences and reflexions in order to initiate a debate among participants. ACFA, RACs, NGOS as well as economists (University, FAO, consultants) will be invited to participate.

The agenda is here: <http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%2044-45/1Program%20price%20formation%20seminar.pdf>

Henrik Svenberg, Swedish Fishermen's Federation, will represent the BS RAC (thank you). No one else from the BS RAC has confirmed interest.

Other news and meetings

Marine Natura 2000 Seminar 23 -24 November 2009

From the European Commission, on behalf of François Wakenhut we have received an invitation to the Marine Natura 2000 Seminar for the Baltic Sea Region in Sopot, Poland - 23 and 24 November 2009. See here: <http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/2Seminar%20Sopot.pdf>

Peter Breckling, Union of German Cutter Fishery, will represent BS RAC at this meeting.

EP hearing on CFP Reform 1st December, Brussels

Chairman Reine Johansson has confirmed that he will attend and make a presentation on behalf of BS RAC.

See here under Highlights:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=en&body=PECH>

Closer liaison between the EP and the RACs

From the European Parliament we have been sent the list, for each RAC, of Liaison Members in the EP Committee on Fisheries and Liaison Administrators in the EP Committee on Fisheries Secretariat. Please note that this list may still be subject to some possible changes in the future.

The liaison members for the BS RAC are:

Gróbarczyk, Marek Józef (ECR) **European Conservatives and Reformists**
Leszek Wałęsa, Jarosław (EPP) **Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)**
Lövin, Isabella (GREENS/EFA) **Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**

The full list of EP Fisheries Committee members is here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/membersCom.do?language=EN&body=PECH>

Inside Out ICES Style

ICES: The latest edition of Inside Out focuses on the recently held Annual Science Conference in Berlin: young fishermen and young scientists, and how to give presentations. See here:

<http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2009/index.asp>

Imported Pangasius versus Danish caught plaice: in the end it all boils down to price.

From the November issue of the Danish consumer magazine "Tænk" (Think) are some articles about one problem facing the market for Danish caught plaice: competition from farmed Pangasius from Vietnam. Pangasius is cheaper and therefore more attractive to the consumer. But which of the fish is healthier and more nutritious – for example, in terms of Omega 3? The Danish Fishermen's Association and the Danish Producers Association asked the Danish research laboratory at Højmark to do a comparison of the two. At Højmark they found much lower quantities of Omega 3 in the pangasius and higher levels of selenium (helps to protect our cells and improve our resistance to illnesses), as well as very small quantities of listeria in the Pangasius (but not dangerous levels).

In the end, the choice comes down to the consumer. A representative from one fish supplier, Butler's Choice, is quoted as saying that he would love to sell plaice and turbot and other good Danish fish; but the problem is that the consumer considers them to be too expensive. Pangasius first came onto the Danish market in 2004, and sales have just rocketed.

You can read more, but not all the articles here: (Sorry, only in Danish):

<http://www.taenk.dk/artikler/hajmalle-angriber-roedspaette/>

Is it the end of the line for our fisheries? : a film

The film "The end of the line," directed by Rupert Murray, was shown in Copenhagen last week as part of the annual documentary film festival CPH:DOX. It was narrated by the journalist Charles Clover from the British newspaper the Daily Telegraph. In the film programme, an introduction to the film describes a decline over the last 50 years in fish stocks of 90% and remarks that quotas recommended by scientists in order to protect threatened species are just ignored by the politicians and the fishing industry. If the trend continues, says the introduction, the only fish that will be left to eat will be jellyfish. The film gives an overview of how the decline in fish stocks affects all levels of society: it gives the example from Newfoundland, and the decline of the cod fishery, as well as from Africa. It also documents the blue fin tuna fishery and the market demand in Japan. "It's a story that's been told too late" says the film.

After the film there was a panel debate with Hanne Lyng Winter, biologist from Greenpeace, the Danish chef Nikolaj Kirk and Michael Andersen of the Danish Fishermen's Association. The film was really well attended and there was a lively debate afterwards.

More information on the film here:

<http://endoftheline.com/>

Contact from ASCOBANS

Dr Peter Evans, on behalf of the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS, has written to us (slightly edited):

“At a recent Meeting of the Parties of the international Agreement ASCOBANS (Agreement for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas), it was proposed that those of us directly involved in marine mammal conservation should engage directly with the fishing communities to address ways that we can work together to reduce the accidental capture of cetaceans in fishing gear. This problem has persisted over many years and the various mitigation measures that have been introduced have not been successful for various reasons. We recognise that nobody wants to see accidental mortality of animals, least of all fishermen. In the past governments and non-governmental organisations have too often worked independently of the fishing communities. We would like to address this gap that has too long existed and we see the Regional Advisory Councils as key players to tackle this as hopefully we all have a common interest. As a first step, we propose an international workshop that reviews the current status of mitigation measures for cetacean bycatch for different types of fishery - their strengths and limitations, and discusses how best to take these forward, along with developing a strategy that would be workable for the fishing communities themselves. This meeting is planned to take place at Stralsund, **Germany on 21st March 2010** alongside an international conference held in the German Oceanographic Museum there. It would have an open session with presentations followed by a closed session to explore strategies for reducing bycatch. I do hope you will be willing for your Regional Advisory Council to get involved at various stages of this collaborative effort to tackle this environmental issue. Hopefully everyone can benefit from this.”

BS RAC Members, please contact the BS RAC if you are interested in representing the RAC at this seminar. We have also mentioned the possibility of the BSRAC having observer status to attend ASCOBANS Advisory Committee meetings.

A questionnaire on ecosystem approach from Gregory Wilson

Your input on this brief Web-based survey is greatly appreciated. This survey intends to examine how ecosystem management is being applied in large aquatic ecosystems in the U.S. and Europe (Lake Erie, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Tampa Bay and Baltic Sea). It is being administered as part of my doctoral dissertation, as I am an administrator at Kent State University and a doctoral candidate there in Biological Sciences. I am seeking perspectives from a variety of ecosystem stakeholders for this study. The results will highlight the current status of ecosystem management and provide insight as to how it might be improved/optimized in the future. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the results, you can indicate this in the last question of the survey.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Please click on the link below to begin the survey.

https://srl.kent.edu/sw/wchost.asp?st=ecosystem_balticsea&id=53&pw=DNRTM4

From BALTIC 2020: workshop on selectivity

Baltic Sea 2020 are putting together a workshop at DTU Aqua in Hirtshals, Denmark with the aim of discussing selectivity and what could be done to protect cod juveniles. It will be from lunch to lunch 24 and 25 November. They hope to use the conclusions from this event as input to all Baltic Sea MS as well as the technical group put together by the Commission as part of the roadmap for a discard ban (remember Declaration from Stockholm Conference on 1st-2nd October 2009). The aim is to make a “long list” of proposals which would protect young years classes (Real time closures, increased mesh size etc, etc) and specifically how the T90 and BACOMA could be improved or new gear developed. In Hirtshals they can demonstrate how the various trawls behave. A pragmatic and unbiased approach is a necessity and therefore a small group of 10-12 researchers, developers and users is desirable. The WS will be documented and conclusions will be made available. Thomas Thomsen from the Fishermen’s Association of Bornholm and Christiansø will represent the BS RAC.

Suggested modus operandi for WS:

- 1) We send out a questionnaire to as many interested parties as possible – asking them to list the 5 most important measures that can be undertaken to limit mortality of juveniles. The answers will be summarized in a long list which we will use as basis for the discussions in Hirtshals.
- 2) Discuss and prioritize among the suggested measures at the WS
- 3) Discuss and elaborate how current gear can be improved and what are important considerations when new gear is developed.
- 4) Summarize and conclude

As part of the modus operandi here is step 1:

Baltic Sea 2020 is conducting a survey among its various contact points in the Baltic Sea region. We kindly ask you to swiftly sending us your answers to the questions below to your best knowledge.

Questions:

1. List the five most important measures to protect the young cod year classes in the Baltic Sea.
2. Please rank the measures you have suggested.

Your answer will be treated anonymously. No disclosure of origin other than country from which it originated will be made public. The answers will be compiled and published on our website. Please send your answers in an email to: signup@balticsea2020.org no later than Friday the 20th November, please.

Baltic Sea 2020 is a private, independent foundation aimed at stimulating concrete measures which improve the environmental quality of the Baltic Sea. The assets of the foundation will finance projects that are creative, innovative and improve knowledge of the Baltic Sea. The capital will be used continuously until 2020, hence the name of the foundation. The foundation is not affiliated with any government or private organization.

Selectivity visuals

Vesa Tschernij, Iconex Ltd/AB, has produced videos presenting the Baltic Fishermens' Network and cooperation that has been set up around the Baltic. Another video presents the challenges facing size selectivity in the Baltic cod fishery. On our website on the page links we have made a heading Selectivity and made links to these two films which Vesa has uploaded onto You Tube. If you have difficulties viewing the films, don't give up, but try again later. If difficulties persist, contact Vesa.

If you have any contributions to make to the subject Selectivity, we welcome them.

Nordic Council: Report on seminar 12th November Nordic seminar on the newly adopted Baltic Sea Region Strategy

What is the role of regional cooperation today? Will the Baltic Sea Region succeed in being the pioneer of macro-regional cooperation in the EU? How to transform the strategy into action? See here:

<http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/nordic-seminar-on-the-newly-adopted-baltic-sea-region-strategy>

The Dutch fishery views on CFP Reform

We have received from the NS RAC response of the Dutch fishing industry to the Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. See here:

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/DutchFishingIndustry_GreenPaperResponse_ENG.pdf

Nordic contribution to the ongoing debate on EU's Common Fisheries Policy

See here a report prepared by a group of Nordic researchers. It includes Nordic solutions and experiences in fisheries management with relevance to the reform of the CFP. Three themes are put forward: Rights-based management, Co-management and discards.



Here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/NordicCouncilFisheries%20management.pdf>
