

### BSRAC news and meetings

**BS RAC Pelagic WG from 19<sup>th</sup> January:** the draft minutes are with WG chair. Coming soon.

The date of the next Pelagic WG will be decided once we receive the non- paper on long-term management plan for pelagic species from the Commission.

**JAKFISH:** the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> March, time and venue to be decided. We'll send a report from the JAKFISH Workshop of 19<sup>th</sup> January as soon as it's available get one.

**Salmon Working Group:** possibly second half of March 2010 (watch website)

**General Assembly and ExCom 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010, Klaipeda, Lithuania:** We're at planning stage and in contact with our Honorary Chair (Steve Karnicki), and with Lithuanian ministry and Lithuanian Fisheries Producers' Association. If BS RAC members have suggestions for the agendas already now, please contact Secretariat.

### Commission news and meetings and news from EP

#### **The Commission Seminar on right based management in the CFP, Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

On 25 January 2010 the Commission organised a one-day seminar on Right Based Management (RBM) in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The seminar was attended by over 100 people from 17 member states, 7 RACs, the industry, NGOs and the EU institutions. Presentations were made by the European Commission, invited fisheries experts, industry representatives, and fisheries managers. The purpose of the seminar was to progress the debate on RBM in the CFP reform context. Specifically, the aim was to outline the Commission's general approach to the possible use of RBM in a reformed CFP, and to discuss design and implementation issues in the EU using practical case study experiences.

Erik Lindebo, DG Mare, Structural Policy and Economic Analysis, has thanked participants and informed us that all the presentations are online at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/meetings\\_events/events/archives/events\\_2010/conference\\_250110\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/meetings_events/events/archives/events_2010/conference_250110_en.htm)

Jenny Fors (WWF) and Mart Undrest (Estonian Fishermen's Association) represented the BS RAC and have sent a report from the meeting, here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20RBMbyJennyandMart.pdf>

#### **A meeting at the Commission with stakeholders on CFP Reform on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January:**

We didn't attend this meeting, but you can see the presentations here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/meetings\\_events/events/archives/events\\_2010/conference\\_190110\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/meetings_events/events/archives/events_2010/conference_190110_en.htm)

#### **The Trawler newsletter from the European Parliament**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201001/20100127ATT68076/20100127ATT68076EN.pdf>

Don't be put off by the first page – scroll down to get to the English!

### Other news and meetings

#### **Annual meeting between ICES and the RACs, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, Gdynia**

A final report from the meeting will follow. But briefly to tell you that this was the fifth annual meeting between ICES and the RACs, and they are becoming more dialogue and exchange based. ICES explained that they are anxious to make the more efficient use of time and try to see meetings more grouped together around different subjects. All RACs were positive about their cooperation with ICES and with ICES attendance at

meetings. There was a discussion about when ICES scientists as opposed to national scientists should take part at RAC meetings, but it was generally agreed that there was an acceptable division between the two. In many cases, the scientists from national institutes are affiliated to ICES. The benchmarking workshops were discussed, and the RACs were encouraged to get involved as early as possible in the process - well before the workshops take place – and it was suggested to arrange a brainstorming meeting well in advance of each benchmarking to let shareholders express their concerns and points of interests. ICES explained their Work Programme for 2010 - 2011, and it was pointed out that there is an awful lot of detail behind the elaborate schedule of meetings that ICES draws up. ICES explained that is really is a major demand and challenge to get everyone lined up to take part in the meetings. RAC secretariats can get access to the ICES Share Point Site (which is password protected) to keep up-to-date with all the different meetings that are planned. There was a discussion about whether ICES working groups should be open to stakeholders: this is an ongoing discussion and is also under consideration in connection with the renewal of the three-yearly memorandum of understanding between the Commission and ICES.

Alex Olsen of Espersen (and BS RAC member) gave a presentation of the MSC labelling process: the background, the pre-assessment phase and the actual assessment, as well as the involvement of ICES in this. He explained that Germany, Sweden and Denmark were in the process of getting certification for their cod fisheries in the Baltic; a question was whether Poland would also apply. See presentation here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/ICES/MIRAC2010/Espersenlabelling.pdf>

Philippe Moguedet of DG Research gave a presentation of fisheries research under the Framework 7 programme for 2011. Three calls will be launched in this connection, covering the following topics 1. Beyond MSY, 2. socio-economic effects of the CFP, 3. to strengthen the impact of agriculture, forestry fisheries and aquaculture research; use of the Mediterranean and Black Sea and off shore multi-use of wind farms. There was some discussion of exactly how the RACs can take part in this process.

ICES gave a detailed presentation of the new form of ICES advice, which would be based on the MSY approach – basically this will be based on fishing mortality and how to predict the biomass. To move over to MSY will require some sort of gradual transition from the current precautionary approach based advice - it will have to be gradual, and ICES will invite clients, governments and stakeholders to discuss this at a workshop some time at the end of March. This point generated a lot of discussion and questions among the participants and all welcomed the opportunity to learn more about this. ICES presentation on MSY here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/ICES/MIRAC2010/New%20form%20of%20ICES%20MSY%20advice.pdf>

There was also a presentation of the “user-friendly” new format of ICES advice: this is still at the drawing-board stage. There has been a discussion in ICES on the quality of the advice, and ICES have been working on trying to figure out how to establish a traffic light system of advice. The basic structure is still based on individual fish stocks. The traffic lights will probably not be in the final format – but you can see them in the draft version. See here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/ICES/MIRAC2010/New%20format%20of%20ICES%20advice.pdf>

Finally, Mike Sissenwine ACOM chair gave a presentation on how to express confidence and uncertainty in fisheries advice and how to reduce the uncertainty - this was discussed at an ICES workshop in Lisbon last year. This presentation was well received and a question was put: what about regional initiatives where RACs, managers and ICES sit down together and work together? And to strengthen the links between data collection and the assessment groups in ICES? See presentation here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/ICES/MIRAC2010/Expressing%20Confidence%20or%20Uncertainty.pdf>

Mike Sissenwine has produced a summary from this meeting. There was no time to go through it in Gdynia, but see here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/ICES/MIRAC2010/MIRAC%202010%20Chairs%20Summary.pdf>

### **EI Anzuelo - including an interview with Reine Johansson on CFP Reform**

Here is the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of EI Anzuelo. The editor Indrani Lyutchman writes that EI Anzuelo is distributed electronically to a wide readership including Commission officials, NGOs, industry representatives and academics and this edition contains some interesting articles which will contribute to a better understanding of the different views on the CFP reform. See here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/elanz\\_20.pdf](http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/elanz_20.pdf)

### **A Fishery Dependant Information Conference Galway 23-26 August 2010** Details here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1424&kind=4&pageId=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1424&kind=4&pageId=1227)

### **Films on fisheries – by WWF**

From the WWF in UK, we've been sent a link to their Net Gains film series, which WWF are using to support their CFP reform work, See here:

<http://www.vimeo.com/wwf>

Contact: Giles Bartlett, Fisheries Policy Officer, WWF-UK, [gbartlett@wwf.org.uk](mailto:gbartlett@wwf.org.uk)

### **Less boats - more fish?**

The WWF Poland report mentioned last time It outlines and details the socio-economic consequences of fleet capacity reduction programmes in the Baltic Sea. Piotr Predki, BSRAC Poland, has given us two more copies. If you want one, contact Secretariat.

### **Nordic Council agenda under the Faeroes chairmanship 2010**

From Asmundur Gudjónsson, at the Nordic Council of Ministers we've received a set of programmes for the chairmanship of the Faroe Islands for cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture in 2010.

Three major meetings are planned:

Marine Ecosystem Management – How to Make it sustainable 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> May

Right Based Fisheries for the Benefit of Society 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> June 2010

"The Pelagic complex" 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> September

See the programme here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/Faeroesechair2010.pdf>

And more information on fisheries cooperation here:

[http://www.norden.org/en/areas-of-co-operation/fisheries?set\\_language=en](http://www.norden.org/en/areas-of-co-operation/fisheries?set_language=en)

### **The Baltic Sea Fishermen's Network**

Vesa Tjernij has sent us the final report on the Baltic Sea Fishermen's Network Forum and video

The aim of the Baltic Sea Fishermen's Network is to enhance dialogue and cooperation on practical issues

The report from the conference Baltic Sea Forum 2009, October 15th - 16th 2009 Marine Centre, Simrishamn, Sweden, is here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/BSFN%20report%202009%20final.pdf>

Also a video on the whole process here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qqwu7D77IM>

### **From ASCOBANS and invitation to a ONE DAY WORKSHOP on marine mammal bycatch**



Stefan Bräger, Chair of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, informs the BS RAC that the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) recently started a new initiative to reduce marine mammal bycatch in close collaboration with fishermen.

As a first step, ASCOBANS is organizing a one-day workshop (hosted by ECS; <http://www.ozeaneum.de/en/ecs-2010/programme.html#c1763>) that will take place **in Stralsund, Germany on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010** to discuss the best approach.

The open morning session will be devoted to a review of the current status of bycatch in (NW-) European fisheries. During the closed afternoon session the invited representatives of European governments and authorities as well as DG Mare will discuss suitable mitigation measures as well as a novel approach. A string of subsequent workshops along European coasts with local fishermen could be initiated to start a collaborative process to reduce bycatch. He hopes this initiative sounds interesting so that the BSRAC will consider participating in the workshop. He invites BSRAC to take part and to register with the workshop organizer, Peter Evans ([peter.evans@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:peter.evans@bangor.ac.uk)), please, to receive further information.

**The ASCOBANS invitation to the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASCOBANS advisory Committee.** Is here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1421&kind=4&pageId=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1421&kind=4&pageId=1227)

### **The Baltic Sea Strategy**

#### **Report from the Helsinki meeting 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010**

This was the second meeting under the Baltic Sea Strategy. The aim of this meeting was to bring together authorities AND stakeholders and to discuss further the actions to be carried out under Priority area 9 (Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). The topics dealt with under fisheries were: fish as food, regionalisation, aquaculture, elimination of discards and sustainable fishery (small-scale fishery, labelling/certification, and ecosystem-based management plans. Robert Andren, Swedish Ministry of Agriculture, gave a general introduction to the aims of the Baltic Sea Strategy and then there was a presentation of the flagship projects that had been selected under fisheries (regionalisation, aquaculture, discards, small-scale fisheries, labelling and certification, and fish as food). The agendas of the fisheries meetings, as well as notes from the meetings (if you're interested) are merged together and attached here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/BalticStrategymergednotes.pdf>

There were some BS RAC members there, representing their organisations: Pehr Eriksson from Swedish Fishermen's Federation, Nils Höglund (CCB), Vesa Karttunen from Finnish Fishermen's Federation, and Henrik Kyhle, Information Officer at Fish Sec. All the conclusions from the meeting are here:

[http://www.mmm.fi/en/index/ministry/International\\_affairs/balticsea/100122\\_second\\_meeting.html](http://www.mmm.fi/en/index/ministry/International_affairs/balticsea/100122_second_meeting.html)

### **News from HELCOM:**

#### **The Fifth Stakeholder Conference on the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan**

(Helsinki, Finland, 3 March 2010). Documents will be uploaded here:

[http://www.helcom.fi/events/en\\_GB/0303-0303-2010/](http://www.helcom.fi/events/en_GB/0303-0303-2010/)

#### **Fifth Stakeholder Conference on the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan**

(Helsinki, Finland, 3 March 2010). Documents will be here:

[http://www.helcom.fi/events/en\\_GB/1805-2005-10/](http://www.helcom.fi/events/en_GB/1805-2005-10/)

#### **Eurofish Governing Council 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January, Copenhagen**



This was the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council and BS RAC took part as observer at the open session on the meeting. Eurofish staff gave an account of their activities during 2009 and of the planned programme of work for 2010. 2009 had been a very difficult year because of the global recession. Poland has ratified the agreement joining Eurofish, so is now officially a member. There are many challenges ahead in 2010: globalisation of the fish trade, the increasing need for innovation and technological development and know-how, and the geopolitical and economic changes taking place. Eurofish was constantly looking for projects and for donors, and to create synergies with other actors in the sector. Latvian delegate encouraged Eurofish to strengthen links with the BS RAC. The BSRAC took the opportunity to say hello to the delegates from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Denmark, and informed of our coming General Assembly in Lithuania in May. Keep informed on Eurofish activities, meetings and publications here: <http://www.eurofish.dk>

Once recent publication is a study of the fish processing industry in Latvia.

The Eurofish magazine, which has a very wide readership, is now online and free-of-charge, see here: <http://www.eurofishmagazine.com/>

Aina, we wish you a safe a recovery from your accident. This happened the evening before the Governing Council, so Aina was not able to attend as newly appointed director of Eurofish.

### **Danish minister and her press release from Eva Kjer on the state of the stocks**

**A positive development in the fish stocks.** The Danish minister Eva Kjer Hansen has recently sent a memo to the Danish Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs. The memo has been commissioned from the national institute DTU Aqua. It describes the development of a series of stocks which are important for the Danish fisheries: cod in the North Sea and Skagerrak, cod in the western and eastern Baltic, sole in Skagerrak, Kattegat and Baltic, sole, plaice and herring in the North Sea, saithe and haddock in the North Sea and Skagerrak, mackerel in the North East Atlantic, and Atlantic-Scandian herring. Many of these stocks are regulated by multi-annual management plans. The minister thinks that these management plans have had a positive effect on the development of many of the stocks. She intends to work for more such plans if there is a need for them, for example herring in the western Baltic. You can see the memo here (sorry, Danish only):

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/PressreleaseudviklingfiskebestandJan2010.pdf>

### **The Fisheries Secretariat latest newsletter is here:**

<http://bk.venamail.com/display.php?M=705&C=0cdacbd3e583df8559c319f06bdb0265&S=104&L=1&N=82>

**A Seminar on Aquaculture Invitation - Seminar on "Can a growing aquaculture industry continue to use fishmeal and fish oil feeds and remain sustainable?"** - 03/03/2010 - Intergroup "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development." There is room for 120 people but they expect to have around 70!

Draft programme here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%203-%204/aquacultureseminarfEP030310.pdf>



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
Subgroup "Fisheries and Aquaculture"

Struan Stevenson, MEP, Chair of the Intergroup,  
and  
Pat the Cope Gallagher, MEP, Chair of the Subgroup  
"Fisheries and Aquaculture"

invite you to the Seminar on

**"Can a growing aquaculture industry continue to use fishmeal and fish oil in feeds  
and remain sustainable?"**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010, 9-13 hours  
European Parliament, Brussels

With the participation of

*Guido Milana (MEP, Member of the Fisheries Committee and Rapporteur for the EP  
Own Initiative Report on aquaculture)*

*European Commission*

*Presidency*

*Academics*

*NGOs*

*Private sector*

The agenda of the Seminar will be sent out later.