

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 will start 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 and a draft agenda are here:

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

The Round Table

On 10th December there will be a Round Table meeting, which brings together Polish fishermen to discuss current topics of relevance to the Baltic. It will be held at MIR and will be hosted by Steve Karnicki, as well as Ewa Milewska (BS RAC Vice-chair) and Ryszard Malik (Chair of Pelagic WG). One subject will be a continued discussion of ITQs.

BS RAC Conference 1st –2nd October 2009:

Baltic Sea Fisheries: Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives"

The report from the conference has been finalised and approved. It has been read through and checked by the moderator of the conference, Steve Karnicki, the BS RAC Vice-Chair Ewa Milewska, and Marcus Öhman from the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture. It is on our website, here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Stockholm%20Conference/Conference%20report%20Final.pdf>

Inter-RAC seminar on DECISION-MAKING IN THE REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY 3 & 4 NOVEMBER 2009 at the Merchants' Hall, Edinburgh, Scotland.

This turned out to be a very successful gathering with a lot of thought-provoking presentations. BS RAC chair Reine Johansson pointed out that given its geography and history, the Baltic was tailor-made for applying a regionalised approach to fisheries management. The BS RAC already has good experience from working with the EU Commission. The challenge now was to work more with the civil servants and member states. He mentioned the two successful conferences which the BS RAC had held, and pointed out that the different RACS had set their own agendas: in the case of the BS RAC it had been control and compliance, and the focus on practical issues such as selectivity. There was the need to bring stakeholders into more concrete actions and activities, and to bring administrators, scientists and stakeholders together. He mentioned the recently held BS RAC Focus Group on CFP reform: it had brought together people from different backgrounds. But in the RAC there was now more trust and dialogue between the different partners and a better two-way communication between the fishermen and the grassroots.

See most of the presentations here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1388&kind=4&pageId=1106

Note, in particular, a very good summing up of the conference by the rapporteur Tony Hawkins:

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Inter-RAC/Tony%20Hawkins%20Summary%20of%20CFP%20Conference%20_2_.pdf

A final report will follow later.

Commission news and meetings

The Community Fisheries Control Agency



The Community Fisheries Control Agency has approved its work programme for 2010. The Baltic remains one of the areas of focus, concerning the cod fisheries. See information from the CFCA website here:

http://www.cfca.europa.eu/press_releases/pressrelease_151009_en.htm

Seminar on price formation for fisheries and aquaculture products

This will take place in Brussels on 10 December 2009 from 9h45 to 17h45.

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. Anyone else from the BS RAC members interested, please let me know.

Other news and meetings

Nord Stream: a report on research trials using semi-pelagic bottom trawl boards

Nord Stream has finalised and approved a report which sums up results to date on the trials using newly developed semi-pelagic bottom trawl board WFS 15.

The report is here: <http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%2044-45/2NordStreamtrialsotterboards.pdf>

Nord Stream would like to maintain contact with the BS RAC, especially to follow the situation with the new gear, pipeline construction and the experience of fishermen. We will renew contact next spring or summer.

Denmark and further initiatives on catch quota management

At the Fisheries Council on 19th October, a joint Council/Commission statement was adopted:

"The Council and the Commission appreciate further experiments and development in 2010 on fully documented fishery with the view to assessing whether the implementation of this principle can offer a real alternative."

From the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries we have received a pamphlet entitled: "Paving the way for a new Common Fisheries Policy." In it, Danish minister Eva Kjer Hansen spells out her vision of a sustainable CFP where the fishermen are given more incentives and feel more actively involved in the fishery. She also elaborates on the catch quota management system, where fishermen are given increased catch quotas in return for documenting their fishery by means of cameras. From 1st January 2010 the catch quota management is to be implemented for cod on a limited scale and on a voluntary basis.

There is also a joint statement by the ministers from Denmark, Germany, UK and Scotland expressing the wish to explore ways to improve the CFP – including the work-to-date on camera documentation and non-discard projects. They made this joint statement at the recent conference in Aalborg.

Eva Kjer Hansen has sent the pamphlet to the president of the European Economic and Social Committee and to the presidency of the EP Fisheries Committee. It's also been distributed to the Council.

You can read the pamphlet here: <http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%2044-45/3Paving%20the%20way%20for%20a%20New%20Common%20Fisheries%20Policy%20%20revised%2015%20%20october%202009.pdf>

And you can read about the conference in Aalborg here:

http://www.fvm.dk/Conferences_and_hearings.aspx?ID=42537

From ICES

Attached is an invitation to three Benchmark Workshops to be held by ICES in 2010. This time none of the species in the Baltic is included in these workshops, the aim of which is to include additional input from stakeholders, so we can assure that all relevant data is considered and reviewed.

Invitation here: http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%2044-45/4ICESBenchmarkWS_invitation_031109.pdf

JAKFISH

A JAKFISH workshop was held in London on 21st October to look at the work being done under the JAKFISH project on western Baltic herring - in relation to the anticipated long-term management plan for this species. The JAKFISH scientists have been involved in the ICES process of testing the long-term management plan, but they have only had limited time to do this. More time was needed, and further results were expected before May 2010.

See the report from the meeting here: <http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%2044-45/5Meeting%20report%20JAKFISH%20workshop%2021-10-2009.pdf>

OCEANS PAST III: Call for papers

From Anne Husum Marboe, Research Fellow, MA, Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change Project Coordinator, History of Marine Animal Populations
The History of Marine Animal Populations (HMAP) program invites papers for the Oceans Past III conference: Stories from the sea - History of Marine Animal Populations and their exploitation. The conference takes place at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland from the 18-20 November 2010
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See here: <http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Week%2044-45/6Oceans%20Past%20III%20call%20for%20papers.pdf>