



Weeks 11 - 12

#### **BSRAC news and meetings**

##### **Demersal Working Group 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Copenhagen**

Find all you need to know here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1450&kind=4&pagel=1081](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1450&kind=4&pagel=1081)

##### **Pelagic Working Group 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Copenhagen**

Everything you need is here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1452&kind=4&pagel=1081](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1452&kind=4&pagel=1081)

We look forward to seeing you at these meetings.

**The dates for the General Assembly and the ExCom are definite: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May:** We'll send out invitation and draft agenda as soon as they are ready (on 6<sup>th</sup> April for General Assembly, and 13<sup>th</sup> April for ExCom). But you can start to prepare your journey. Meetings will run approx from midday to midday and take place at the Hotel Klaipeda. More after Easter.

#### **Commission and EP news and meetings**

##### **The newsletter Le chalutier/The trawler from European Parliament,**

The March edition is here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201003/20100316ATT70688/20100316ATT70688FR.pdf>

##### **A press release from Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) – 2009 was a good year for fisheries control**

The CFCA adopted its annual report for 2009 at the meeting of the Administrative Board held on 18th March. The annual report illustrates all the activities carried out by the CFCA in its first full year at its HQ in Vigo and with 98% execution of its budget. At the meeting, the Board discussed the Preliminary Work Programme for 2011, the preliminary draft budget and the outline for a multiannual work programme. There is confidence over the spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm at European level. The Baltic Sea is named as one area where the level of cooperation has been exemplary, and the first signs of enhanced compliance levels have been observed. See the press release here:

[http://www.cfca.europa.eu/pages/home/press\\_releases/pressrelease\\_18March10\\_en.htm](http://www.cfca.europa.eu/pages/home/press_releases/pressrelease_18March10_en.htm)

##### **Seminars in connection with Common Markets Organisation 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April, Madrid**

DG MARE is organizing in partnership with the Spanish Presidency two seminars in the framework of the CMO reform. The BS RAC has confirmed that Jesper Kobberø (ASECO) and Alex Olsen (AIPCE-CEP) will represent the BS RAC. You can see the programmes here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1454&kind=4&pagel=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1454&kind=4&pagel=1227)

## Other news and meetings

### **Just how important is sports and recreational fishery in Denmark? Very! (not just in money terms)**

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the Danish Minister for food, Agriculture and Fisheries invited the press and those interested in sports and recreational fishery to a press get-together in order to present the findings of an analysis of the socio-economic importance of the sector to Denmark. The aim of the project was to increase knowledge and Awareness of the sector – its scope and how it is made up, its importance for the national economy, as well as the potential for tourism. The consultancy company COWI carried out the analysis and presented it at the meeting. COWI gave an account of what type of fishermen (or women!) there are, and what sort of things they expect from fishing. The findings of the COWI study are very upbeat. There is money in the sector: the Danish recreational fisherman spends on average about € 540 a year on this hobby. Over half a million Danes go fishing in Denmark. And not just Danes. There is considerable potential in developing the sector to encourage even more foreign guests (especially Germans) to spend more time fishing in Denmark. One way could be to make the holiday season wider and longer than the traditional high season. A representative from “Visit Denmark“ (a Danish tourist promotion organisation) talked about the potential for developing the sector - to the benefit of the hotel and tourist branch in Denmark. Verner Hansen, Chairman of the Danish recreational fisheries organisation “Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund” also gave a presentation. He spoke passionately about this pastime and put forward the vision that the organisation has: to do something with all waterways to ensure free passage and to make sure that all water areas are in ecological balance. He highlighted all the work put in by members on a voluntary basis of the organisation to improve the natural environment, and he called for better access to fishing waters – along the coasts and inland, and for there to be done more about the illegal fishery that went on. The ministry press release from the meeting is here (sorry, in Danish):

<http://www.fvm.dk/Default.aspx?ID=18486&PID=165776&NewsID=6006>

The reports from the study (there are three of them) are here (sorry, again in Danish):

<http://fvm.dk/Default.aspx?ID=43739>

### **Eurofish Monthly Management Report for February was sent to us on 15<sup>th</sup> March**

The layout of the Monthly Management Report has been changed to increase the awareness of Eurofish activities as requested by the Governing Council. You can see it here:

<http://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=7d70f17c7740ec2e5c0bca188&id=0e63428f0b&e=f9971c0f91>

### **An article from the Spanish magazine PESCA international on the RACs**

We were asked recently by the Spanish fisheries magazine PESCA Internacional to contribute with answers to a series of question on the role of the RACs. In response, we sent the position paper that the BS RAC had sent to the Commission at the end of 2009, pointing out at the same time that the Green NGOs had abstained. In a short article on the BS RAC, PESCA Internacional points out that there is not a unanimous position from the BS RAC, and that three Green NGO organisations expressed a minority position. The article does extract some comments from the recommendations:

- There is general satisfaction with the way the RAC is running and with the role of the RAC.
- There is general agreement that the structure (2/3 -1/3) is satisfactory.
- There is the feeling that the RAC should play a bigger role than advisory, and that the RACs should be represented on ACFA.
- Moreover, the relationship with scientists is considered important and there should be a permanent seat on the BS RAC for scientists.

Those Spanish speakers among you are welcome to contact the Secretariat for a copy of this article.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress Seafood Technology, Anchorage, Alaska, 10 - 13 May 2010**

This is organised by FAO and University of Alaska. See here: <http://www.icst2010.com/>

The Congress will address state-of-the-art information and innovation regarding handling, processing, preservation, storage and transportation of seafood. World experts will present on key issues addressing the Seafood Industry such as products and health, safety and quality, integrated traceability, novel products and technologies, education, research and innovations, etc. It should be of interest to food scientists, seafood technologists, quality controllers, industry and government people.

### **Farmed or wild caught cod: which is better?**

From FISHupdate Newsed to farmed co17 March, 2010 See <http://www.fishupdate.com/>

NORWEGIAN farmed cod is a good fish according to the results of a market test involving 32 chefs in France and Sweden. Each restaurant received a box of fresh, farmed cod, which they could prepare and serve as they wished. When the completed dishes were ready for serving, they were evaluated by the chefs with respect to freshness, odour, appearance, colour, taste, texture and overall impression. "This study shows that there is every reason to be satisfied with the quality of farmed cod," says Senior Scientist Jens Østli at the Norwegian research institute Nofima. "On a scale from one to seven, where one was extremely poor and seven was extremely good, the farmed cod scored an average of six in France and five in Sweden. The chefs thought it was a very good product," he added. Participants in this market test included large and small eating establishments alike, ranging from top-class restaurants with stars in the Michelin Guide through to hotel restaurants, bistros and cafés.

In Sweden, many of the chefs had already tried farmed cod, but in France few had tried it before. "I got a great first impression. The fish did not smell and the skin colour varied as it should do," said the chef from one of the restaurants with Michelin stars that participated in the test. The study also shows that there are some major differences in how the French and Swedish restaurants market seafood to their guests.

In France, it seems unthinkable to use the word farmed ("élevage") on the menu, regardless of the product. But it is quite common to use the product's provenance. In Sweden, the public seem to be aware of the overfishing in the Baltic Sea and therefore demands product information enabling them to avoid endangered seafood products. Consequently, it is common to inform on Swedish menus that the cod is the product of aquaculture.

In Sweden, participating eating establishments ranged from Umeå in the north to Helsingborg in the south, while in France the emphasis was in the Paris area. Restaurants in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France's most important fishing harbour, also participated in the test.

A total of 32 restaurants fulfilled the test, 16 in each of the two countries.

The market test was financed by Innovation Norway through the Marine Value Creation Programme.

### **From ASCOBANS**

The Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS (16-18 September 2009) has been published their website. See here:

[http://www.service-board.de/ascobans\\_neu/files/ac17/AC17\\_8-03\\_MOP6Report.pdf](http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/files/ac17/AC17_8-03_MOP6Report.pdf).

See also other related documents here:

<http://www.ascobans.org/index0501.html>

I regrettably was unable to attend the one-day seminar on cetaceans bycatch on 20<sup>th</sup> March Stralsund due to a cancelled ferry (that was more problematic that you may think).

### **From the Fisheries Secretariat – a report that there will probably be no trade ban on bluefin tuna**

See here:

<http://www.fishsec.org/article.asp?CategoryID=1&ContextID=572>

### **The Danes are eating more fish – not a lot more, but more**

The Danish organisation the Danish Fish Branch Association (the umbrella organisation for a lot of the fisheries organisations in Denmark: fishermen, retailers, processors etc) recently issued an upbeat press

release to inform that Danes are still eating more fish - fresh and frozen, canned and ready-made meals. A consumer study has shown that 1,400 tonnes more fish was sold in 2009 compared to 2008 (an increase of 2.7%) and sales have been increasing in both supermarkets and at fishmongers. Overall, sales have increased by 4.3% in 2009 compared to 2008. The general increase in the consumption of fish has been a clear development since 2005 when the campaign "Twice a day" was introduced (TV adverts, recipe booklets etc. to get folk to eat more fish).

### **An invitation to a seminar on eel, Åhus, Sweden 20-21 April. Register by 13<sup>th</sup> April**

The aim of the seminar is to get an overview of the situation for eel and to look at what can be done to promote the well-being of eel in the future. The seminar is aimed at administrators, biologists, NGOs, media, fisheries organisations, eel farmers, and anyone else with an interest in eel.

Sorry, it's all in Swedish. But see here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1455&kind=4&pageId=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1455&kind=4&pageId=1227)

Or contact Claes Bergkvist, Ålakademin, [claes@bergkvist.org](mailto:claes@bergkvist.org), 0705-706 708.

### **ICES workshop on MSY Monday 22nd –Friday 26th March 2010, Copenhagen**

This workshop is being led by Ciaran Kelly from the Marine Institute in Ireland.

The aim of the workshop is to come up with A SET OF GUIDELINES that the ICES expert groups can pick up on and work further with. The aim is not to re-inventing the wheel, but to produce a useful discussion and make some pointers as to what the work should be with respect to MSY advice. It also aims to discuss what MSY will mean in practice and for the industry, and the practical implementation of MSY. Ciaran went through the terms of reference:

1. Provide technical guidelines for the estimation of MSY proxies, these guidelines should assist expert groups in proposing F<sub>msy</sub> proxies which will feed into the 2010 advice;
2. These guidelines shall include:
  - a. Criteria for selection of proxies for F<sub>msy</sub> in situations when projection of the fisheries performance based on assumed fishing mortalities is possible (data rich situations)
  - b. Criteria for advice when such a projection is not possible but when there are indicators on exploitation pressure and/or stock trends (data poor situations);
3. Illustrate the guidelines on selected stocks using the 2009 assessment and advice as basis and compare the 2009 advice with the outcome that might have resulted from an advice based on the MSY framework taking a transition policy agreed with management into account.

I attended the first day and listened to some of the presentations made at the seminar. Michael Andersen is representing the BS RAC at the seminar. Contact the Secretariat if you are interested in these presentations:

- The policy paper on MSY: See Concept paper.
- A power point presentation by Benoit Mesnil, IFREMER
- Presentation from Dankert W Skagen IMR, Norway
- Some thoughts on estimation, uncertainty - to give a diagnostic framework?

### **Fisheries can rescue the Baltic Sea**

This was the title of an article which appeared in the Danish daily newspaper Jyllands Posten on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. I tracked down the author Dr Brian Mackenzie from DTU Aqua and asked for an English version. He kindly sent one. The English version is entitled "The Baltic Sea environment would be improved by sustainable fishery management" and has been written collectively by contributors from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Germany. The article includes evidence that a recovery of Baltic fish stocks could contribute to reduce some effects of eutrophication. The article focuses a lot on the cod. Ecosystem effects of an increased cod stock has the potential to positively change the ecosystem faster. And restored populations of top predators such as



pike, perch and pikeperch could also reduce some effects of coastal eutrophication. Brian Mackenzie would be interested to hear comments to this article and to come and discuss with the BS RAC.

See the article in English here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Weeks%2011-12/The%20Baltic%20Sea%20environment%20would%20be%20improved%20by%20sustainable%20fishery%20management\\_130210.pdf](http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Weeks%2011-12/The%20Baltic%20Sea%20environment%20would%20be%20improved%20by%20sustainable%20fishery%20management_130210.pdf)

### **One more reminder and then no more: The Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award**

The Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award recognises outstanding efforts to improve the marine environment in the Baltic Sea. The regional award is presented every year by Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The prize is 250,000 SEK along with a crystal sculpture and an invitation to participate in the 2010 World Water Week in Stockholm. The work of the nominee to improve marine environment in the Baltic Sea region can relate to, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- Education and awareness raising
- Human and international relations
- Basic and applied research
- Water management
- Local activities

Emphasis is placed on efforts that have had tangible and measurable effects on the marine environment in the Baltic Sea region. See here:

<http://www.siwi.org/swedishbalticseawateraward>

Nomination deadline is 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010

ANY SUGGESTIONS?