



Weeks 5+6

BSRAC news and meetings

JAKFISH 3rd meeting on Western Baltic herring.

Small focus Group meeting between the Pelagic RAC and BS RAC: 9th March in Copenhagen

These meetings will be at the Danish Food Industry Agency (Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries). The small Focus Group meeting between the BS RAC and Pelagic RAC will be to formulate a position on the stock. The Commission informs that the non-paper on long-term management of pelagic stocks will be available by this date.

See here for meeting:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1426&kind=4&pageld=1081

The meeting room is small (max 15). Please consult with Secretariat if BS RAC members want to take part.

BS RAC Pelagic Working Group: no date is yet fixed – this is subject to arrival of the above-mentioned non-paper. The minutes from the meeting on 19th January are on our website here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Pelagic%20WG/190110/MniutesPelagicWG190110Final090310.pdf>

The next Salmon Working Group: a date to be announced when we know more about the Commission proposal – in other words, when it will be released.

BS RAC General Assembly and ExCom 11th and 12th May 2010: we have a venue. See here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/General%20Assembly/11052010/Map%20Klaipeda.mht>

We are working on the draft agenda.

Admin: Our grant application for year 5

This has now been sent to the Commission.

Commission news and meetings

Commission seminar on Small Scale Fisheries. 25th February, Brussels: in the framework of the CFP reform. From the BS RAC will be Kim Kær Hansen, (Danish Fishermen's Association) and Jesper Kobberø, (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organisations). Also taking part will be Bengt Larsson, (Fishermen's Federation for Small-Scale Fishery in Sweden) – also BSRAC member.

Advisory Board to the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) 2nd March in Madrid.

Reine J. Johansson, BS RAC chair will be taking part. On the draft agenda is:

Annual report of activities in 2009, Presentation of the work programme for 2011 -2015 and annual work programme for 2011, election of the representative and alternate of the Advisory Board in the Administrative Board, and a discussion of cooperation with the RACs.

Commission workshop on Technical measures 22nd March: this is to be confirmed by Commission

Commission workshops on Common Organisation of the Markets: 12th -16th April:

2 workshops on 1) International trade and 2) Differentiation of products and quality.

Another meeting should be organised in May or June on the Promotion of Fish products. (These are to be confirmed).

Conference on the reform of the CFP, 2 and 3 May 2010, La Coruña, Spain

This will be co-organised by the Commission and the Spanish Presidency. Each RAC can designate 3 representatives. Reine Johansson and Ewa Milewska have confirmed participation.

See invite and workshop agendas here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1433&kind=4&pageId=1227

The Scientific, Technical, and Economic Committee for Fisheries and meeting programme for 2010 is here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Weeks%205-6/Proposition%20calendrier%20STECF%202010%20-%20PDR%20-%2028-01-2010.pdf>

It gives a synoptic time table, list of meetings (plenary and sub-group), list of associated data calls, list of possible written procedures to be handled by the STECF plenary and list of possible *ad hoc* contracts supporting some STECF sub-groups. If you have trouble reading the detail, please contact the Secretariat for more information.

Other news and meetings

BS RAC meeting with Deputy Director Marcin Rucinski, Polish Ministry, 1st February Copenhagen

I met briefly with the Deputy Director and we discussed what we are currently working on in the BS RAC – in particular the recent JAKFISH meeting to look at harvest control rules for western Baltic herring and the awaited proposal for a long-term management plan for pelagic species for the Baltic. In particular, we talked about the MRAG report on economic and social impacts of the proposed scenarios for a multi-annual management plan for Baltic pelagic fisheries – and some of the hypotheses and scenarios described in the report. We talked about how we could make our cooperation with Poland even better. On 11th March Reine Johansson, Ewa Milewska and Sally will meet with the Polish ministry in Warsaw and discuss issues relevant to the BS RAC and cooperation with Poland.

Visit to the BS RAC by Food Certification International Ltd (FCI) Friday 26th February 2010 9am

FCI is an accredited independent third party certification body that has specialised in the certification of aquaculture, fisheries and seafood products for over 15 years. FCI is conducting the full assessment segment of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Sustainable Fishing Standard on this fishery. Representatives from FCI will come to Denmark in week 12 to conduct a site visit to Hantsholm, Thyborøn, Copenhagen, and Rønne on the island of Bornholm where the assessment team wish to meet and discuss the fishery with key stakeholders. They will also visit the BS RAC and explain the process. If any stakeholders are in Copenhagen and want to join in, please contact the Secretariat. Jesper Kobberø, (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organisations) has confirmed he will take part.

More on MSC: from the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

In Danish only, but Minister Eva Kjer Hansen has announced that the Danish consumer can look forward to more MSC labelled fish in 2010 – this time cod, plaice and saithe (mackerel, mussels and herring fisheries are already MSC certified). She thinks that the Danish fishery is going in the environment friendly direction by working towards MSC certification. According to her, eco-labelling gives the consumer better information about the fishery and gives fishermen an extra incentive to take care of the environment. Since Denmark is one of the world's major exporters of fish, it is appropriate that the Danish fishery works at getting this internationally recognised label. Read the whole press release here:

<http://www.fvm.dk/Nyhedsvisning.aspx?ID=18486&PID=167232&year=2010&NewsID=5974>

And even more on MSC – this time for the Danish Radio.

Again in Danish, but a radio programme from one of the Radio Stations "P1" called "Climate and environment" focused recently on the MSC process and the differing opinions surrounding labelling schemes. In its introduction it mentions the Danish fishing industry, and says that tired of its image as a business which puts profits before environmental considerations, it is now focused on MSC certification and the aim of getting all its fisheries MSC certified by 2012. The programme gives the background to MSC, and includes interviews with i.a. Jonathan Broch Jacobsen of the Danish Fishermen's Organisation who is responsible for the MSC certification work, and with Henning Mørk Jørgensen, marine biologist at the Danish Society for Nature Conservation. Views differ – are MSC and other labelling schemes good or bad? You can listen here:

http://www.dr.dk/P1/klimaogmiljoe/Udsendelser/2010/02/18145808_1_1_1.htm

From the North Sea RAC: Stakeholder Conference: "Working together to manage the Marine Resources of the North Sea Region" Conference

The NS RAC has sent us an invitation letter and draft programme for a conference organised on behalf of the North Sea Commission and supported by DEFRA. The conference aims to ensure harmonisation of all users of the North Sea and is an important opportunity for dialogue between all users of the sea. During this event, representatives of the EU Institutions, Norway, Member States, Local and Regional Authorities, oil & gas, renewable energy, fisheries, shipping, aquaculture and environmental stakeholders can come together to find the most appropriate method of Managing the Marine Resources of the North Sea Region.

See here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1432&kind=4&pageId=1227

Commission letter to the NS RAC on the Omega net gauge

See here the Commission's reply to the NSRAC regarding the Omega net gauge:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Weeks%205-6/Letterto%20NS%20RAC%20%20OMEGA%20Guagepdf.pdf>

As the NWW RAC points out, this is an issue of common concern for RAC members. At their Ex Com meeting in Paris (29th January), the NSRAC letter was noted, and the members agreed that some inter-RAC initiative would be necessary, as this is a cross-cutting issue. The NWW RAC is now gathering evidence with the aim of drafting a letter to be presented to the other RACs for their consideration. In case this action goes ahead, the idea is that an inter-RAC letter would be submitted to the European Commission, CFCA and Member States. NWW RAC will keep us updated on any news in relation to this process.

The GAP 2 project application

GAP2 will implement research activities and connect the outcomes to EU policy on fisheries and the marine environment. GAP2 is as much about social processes as it is about the outcomes, so it will evaluate where, when and how participatory research works. Robert Aps of the Estonian Marine Institute gave a short presentation at the BS RAC ExCom in December 2009. He invited the BS RAC to nominate a person to take

part on the steering committee to the project as a strategic partner. The application for funding from Framework 7 is now sent, and we will hear more in July. We have taken part in the application process and are names as one of the strategic partners (together with the Ns RAC).

ASCOBANS reminder 1

The ASCOBANS invitation to the 17th meeting of the ASCOBANS advisory Committee (Cornwall, United Kingdom, 21-23 April 2010). Is here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1421&kind=4&pagelid=1227

More information at www.ascobans.org

ASCOBANS reminder 2

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 20th 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), please, to receive further information. (If no one from BS RAC responds, I suggest I go).

From DTU Aqua Fully Documented Fishery workshop 9th and 10th March 2010 From DTU Aqua National Institute of Aquatic Resources. Invitation attached. The aim is

- Establish a common understanding of fully documented fisheries and define the in-formation needs required to support them.
- Examine the operational requirements of electronic monitoring program and its applicability for various fishery needs such as stock assessment, biological sampling (i.e., in a reference fleet context), research and compliance monitoring.
- Examine approaches for cost effective control and "intelligent control" based on compilation of electronic data in relation to fisheries behavior in order to establish advanced risk based control methods.
- Define other relevant consequences and perspectives of a management system based on full catch documentation

You can register for participation in the Fully Documented Fishery workshop by sending an email to Linda Djurhuus on lhd@aqua.dtu.dk **The registration will be closed on 22nd February 2010.**

Visit www.aqua.dtu.dk/English.aspx website for more information about the agenda and the workshop. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.

We are asked by DTU Aqua to distribute the invitation to colleagues and others that might be interested in participation.

More Boats – Less Fish Correct link is:

Regarding the report "Less boats - more fish", it can be found on the enclosed link: www.wwf.pl/raportnzpen

The Polish Round Table

23rd February in Gdynia: the main focus of this meeting with the Polish fishermen is to look at long-term management plan for pelagic species. Ryszard Malik and Ewa Milewska, Chalmers University and MIR are coordinate this Round Table process, which regularly brings together Polish fishermen and other interest groups together to improve dialogue on fisheries related subjects.

Contacts with HELCOM

1. MSP

The BS RAC has been in contact with HELCOM to give input towards a set of draft HELCOM principles for Maritime Spatial Planning - which will be taken up at the HELCOM ministerial meeting in May. In connection with MSP, which embraces a diverse use of the maritime space, of which fishing is one use, and an economic activity to boot, the BS RAC has emphasised the importance of a broad-based approach to sustainability, taking into account not only the environmental considerations, but also social and economic considerations: in line with the BS RAC objectives.

2. Flatfish

HELCOM proposes to hold a workshop on flatfish to improve knowledge and data gathering. BS RAC has replied that it would like to take part in this process.

Newsletter from the Maritime Centre in Simrishamn - the first one for 2010

Madeleine Lundin has sent us the newsletter which is in Danish. Briefly it says that local funding has been secured so the Centre has money to start building work in March and then folk will be able to move in in the autumn. Also of news is that Vesa Tschernij and his family will be moving to Simrishamn to work at the Centre. You can read it here:

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Weeks%205-6/Nyhetsbrev_1_2010.pdf

Announcement of the 4th edition of the “Oceans from Space” Venice 2010 Symposium, April 26th -30th 2010. You can:

- submit a paper (to oceansfromspace@jrc.ec.europa.eu) by Feb 15th; AND
- register ASAP (at <http://www.nexaweb.it/it/registration-form/oceans-from-space-venice-2010.html>); OR
- send a note (again at oceansfromspace@jrc.ec.europa.eu), in case you plan to attend, but would prefer to register later ...

More details on the above, and more news, as they become available, on website (<http://oceansfromspace.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>).

ICES NEWS

1. ICES MSY Framework – a whole week meeting

Here are the ToR's for the **Workshop on Implementing the ICES MSY Framework (WKFRAME)**, which will be held 22–26 March in Copenhagen:

The Workshop on Implementing the ICES MSY Framework [WKFRAME], chaired by Ciaran Kelly, Ireland, will be established and will meet in ICES HQ (to be confirmed), Copenhagen, Denmark, 22 (Midday)-26 (Midday) March 2010 to:

- a) Provide technical guidelines for the implementation of the MSY framework that ACOM adopted in December 2009. These guidelines are for the use of expert groups and advice drafting groups;
- b) These guidelines shall address:
 - i. Estimation of F_{msy} including candidates to serve as proxies to be used when catch projection are performance,

- ii. So called data poor situations when catch projections cannot be performed, however there is information that indicates exploitation pressure and/or stock trends (data poor situations);
- c) 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.

The Chair will organise the presentation of a working paper that reviews the assessment and advisory approach taken for data poor stocks. This paper shall review cases both within and outside the ICES area. The workshop will be open to stakeholders. The Group will report by 31 March for the attention of the Advisory Committee. Michael Andersen (Danish Fishermen's Association) is already registered on behalf of the BS RAC. Please contact BS RAC Secretariat if you want us to register you with ICES.

2. ICES newsletter Inside Out here:

<http://www.ices.dk/InSideOut/jan10/i.html>

3. ICES meeting calendar 2010 here:

<http://www.ices.dk/reports/general/2010/2010Meeting%20Calendar.pdf>

Note that this year, the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group is from 15th -22nd April.

4. Welcome back to Poul Degnbol: New ICES Head of Advisory Services

Poul Degnbol comes back to Copenhagen as new Head of ICES Advisory Services from 1st March 2010. Since 2006 he has been at DG Mare as Adviser on scientific matters. Poul Degnbol has a long career as i.a. Director for the Institute for Fisheries Management and Coastal Community Development (IFM) and research director at the Danish Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research.

The Fifth Annual North Atlantic Seafood Forum, Oslo, Norway 3rd – 4th March 2010

The North Atlantic Seafood Forum will continue its focus on supply, markets, finance, research, innovation and policy for the industry. The conference in March 2010 will again feature an even better and more exciting seminar programme. A wind of change is blowing through the fisheries and seafood industry. The impending reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, the likely entry of Iceland and its key fishery, impending IUU legislation, consumer-driven changes - all set against a turbulent economic background. What will it mean for your business? What is the outlook for markets and prices? At the next NASF you will hear international experts give their own forecasts; key information to help you stay ahead of the curve. Join industry and political leaders in Oslo, where we welcome you to the world's most important seafood business conference. See here:

<http://www.messe.no/templates/ProjectStartPage.aspx?id=4390&epslanguage=EN>

What is Eurofish up to?

Read their latest monthly management report here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/Weeks%205-6/2010%2001%20Dec-Jan%20MMR.pdf>

Remember the Helsinki meeting on Baltic Sea Strategy Priority Area 9 21st and 22nd January 2010?

We have got hold of two of the presentations on fisheries - on sustainable fisheries (by Laura Piriz, Fiseriverket):

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Diverse/LauraPirizworkshoppresentationHelsinki22januari.pdf>

and on the elimination of discards (by Ole Poulsen of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Denmark):

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Diverse/OlePEradicating%20Discards-Presentation%2022%20jan%202010%20DOK50795.pdf>

