



*Congratulations, Michael  
and Ann-Sofie, on the  
safe arrival of your  
second son!*

Week 7-8

#### **BSRAC news and meetings, and other RACs**

##### **BS RAC Interviews with Quentin Bates of Fishing News International**

The April edition of Fishing News International will feature 4 pages on the Baltic. FNI have contacted us for input, and are in the process on interviewing our chairman, vice-chair and chairs of the WGs. Please: Do any members have any photographs to send to me for the newspaper FNI? Something that gives a good picture of Baltic fisheries – which of course is very diverse. If you read this, please send to me. Your contribution will be properly acknowledged in the newspaper.

##### **Focus Group Meeting (BS RAC and PELRAC) on Western Baltic herring 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The two RACs will head this meeting. I'm instructed to inform that the number of participants will be limited to 4 or 5 representatives from each RAC. This is to ensure continuity and to build on what has been learnt at the previous meetings. There will be a morning session with the scientists from DTUAqua. The afternoon session is foreseen as a political session between the two RACs. The aim of the meeting is to try to find a common position on the non-paper from the Commission, so that the two TACs can give the same response. No, we haven't had the non-paper yet: you will be the first to know. A full-blown BS RAC Pelagic WG to take onboard the western Baltic herring and all the other pelagic stocks will be held as soon as possible. And following on from the Pelagic WG on 19<sup>th</sup> January there is the **MRAG report on the socio-economic study of long-term management plan for pelagics**. The Commission has sent us a revised version of this report: MRAG have revisited some calculations and made corrections in tables 9, 10, 27 and 28. You can find it here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Pelagic%20WG/190110/Baltic\\_pelagic\\_Report\\_Final\\_Revised.pdf](http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Pelagic%20WG/190110/Baltic_pelagic_Report_Final_Revised.pdf)

##### **Visit to Warsaw, Poland 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

BS RAC chair, Reine, and Sally will meet with the vice-chair Ewa on 10<sup>th</sup>+11<sup>th</sup> March to discuss BS RAC business and planning. They will also meet with the Polish fisheries administration to discuss areas of common interest.

##### **Long-Distance RAC and fisheries partnership agreements**

LDRAC is organizing a Seminar on FPAs, March 18<sup>th</sup> in Canary Islands. See here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1445&kind=4&pagelid=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1445&kind=4&pagelid=1227)

**NS RAC reminder:**

**NS RAC stakeholder conference on managing marine resources in the North Sea 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1432&kind=4&pageId=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1432&kind=4&pageId=1227)

**Commission news and meetings, and EP and so on**

**Reply from the Commission to BS RAC recommendations on CFP reform**

It's not a detailed reply as yet, but it's an acknowledgement and appreciation of the input from the BS RAC, and information that the Commission is now in the process of assimilating all the contributions received. Commission looks forward to continued contributions from the BS RAC during this year. See the reply here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Recommendations/2009/Reply%20BS%20RAC%20tr%20on%20FP%20recommendations.pdf>

I understand that the Commission's consultation process in general has been perceived by the Commission as a success, and the Commission has received some very interesting proposals and suggestions for CFP reform. The next phase which will last 6 months, will consist of a series of seminars covering small-scale fisheries, the EFF, the external dimension of the CFP, discard, selectivity and technical measures, and then a final more general seminar. Impact assessments will be carried out to look at various scenarios in connection with a revised CFP - and here the replies received during the consultation process will be incorporated. In the second half of 2010, the Commission will start working on a draft proposal, and there will be further CFP-related events and meetings. A first draft proposal on CFP reform is expected at the beginning of 2011.

**And with CFP Reform in mind:**

**The Commission/Presidency conference on CFP reform in La Coruña 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010**

The aim of this conference is to create debate and discussion between the stakeholders and the member states. About 250 participants are expected to take part. There will be three workshops at the conference, covering: governance, access and resource management and small-scale and coastal fisheries. So there will be about 40-50 participants in each workshop. Representing the BS RAC will be Reine J. Johansson, Ewa Milewska and Michael Andersen.

**Further CFP reform seminars**

Commission informs that these might take place on the following days (to be confirmed):

13/04 - Structural policy / EFF

28/04 - External policy

**Preparatory actions on MSP in the Baltic, North Atlantic, North Sea and Channel Area: call for projects**

There was a meeting in Brussels on 10<sup>th</sup> February. The presentation and minutes from the meeting are here: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/tenders\\_proposals/mare\\_2009\\_16\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/tenders_proposals/mare_2009_16_en.htm)

The main objective of these Calls is to gain practical experience in the processes of maritime spatial planning (MSP) in a cross-border context, testing the 10 key principles for MSP presented in the November 2008 Roadmap Communication. In order to ensure that the cross-border element is developed in these projects, the calls are addressed to partnerships where minimum two Member States from the respective sea basin are represented. Regional sea conventions can also be partners to the projects.

Maximum community financing for the Baltic is 400,000 € .

Deadline for proposals is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

### **Workshop Implementation of the strategy for the Baltic sea region 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

In October 2009, EU Member States agreed on EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. One of the four cornerstones of the Strategy is to make the Baltic Sea Region a Safe and Secure Place. Implementation of the Strategy has started. The focus of this workshop is to show the positive effects that the projects have on making the Baltic Region a safe and secure place together with protecting the maritime environment. The approach is practical and down-to-earth. Speaking at this workshop will be:  
CHAIR: Francis Zachariae, Deputy Director General for Danish Maritime Safety Administration  
Catharina Sørensen, Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission  
Dr. Nico Nolte, Head of Unit for Maritime Spatial Planning, German Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)  
Commander C.S. Rasmussen (tbc), Policy Section, Danish Defence Command  
Anders Carlberg, Maritime Affairs Region Västra Götaland  
Charlotte Havsteen, Head of Division for Hydrography and Maritime Data, Danish Maritime Safety Administration  
Therese Nilsson - Project Manager Baltic Master II, Region Blekinge

### **From the European Parliament latest edition of le Chalutier/the trawler is here:**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201002/20100222ATT69308/20100222ATT69308EN.pdf>

### **Other news and meetings**

#### **The Polish Round Table 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010**

Ewa Milewska reports that the Round Table went fine. It was attended by approx. 40 participants, including the Vice-Director of the Fisheries Department, M.Rucinski. Participants expressed their appreciation for the fact that the Round Table deals with pelagic species. We missed the non-paper, but nevertheless there was a lot of discussion under all points of the agenda. The agenda included among others a presentation on the state of pelagic species by Professor J. Horbowy, WWF's presentation on LTMP principles as well as summing up of the discussion on ITQ.

#### **Meeting with FCI Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at BS RAC**

Food Certification International (FCI) came to visit the BS RAC to talk about their current work with the pre-assessment of some of the Danish fisheries. In fact, FCI have been tasked to do the pre-assessment of 33 Danish fisheries. This meeting focused on the eastern Baltic cod fishery. FCI also mentioned that they were working on pre-assessments of the German and Swedish western and eastern Baltic cod – this work was about 2/3 months behind the Danish. From the BS RAC were Magnus Eckeskog, (Fisheries Secretariat), Jesper Kobberø, (Alliance of Social and Ecological Consumer Organizations), and Karsten Kristensen, (European Transport Workers' Federation). FCI gave an explanation of the detailed and rigorous work involved in the pre-assessment. Basically, there is a very detailed set of criteria that the fishery is assessed against, under three overall headings: status of the target fish stock, impact of the fishery on the ecosystem and performance and effectiveness of the fishery management system. FCI have to ensure that the methodology is adhered to by the assessment team. MSC approval is given for 5 years, but there is an annual surveillance assessment for the fishery. After all the work of gathering data and meetings in Denmark, the assessment team will hold a so-called "scoring meeting" in Edinburgh on 8<sup>th</sup> March to actually appraise the fishery. The visit gave rise to very wide-ranging discussions, questions and answers, to try to cover as widely as possible stakeholder involvement in the Baltic Sea fisheries. The discussions covered many issues – fisheries conservation and technical measures, cetaceans, MSP, IUU and control, seabirds, Natura 2000, the quality of the scientific advice for the assessment (including whether MSY was the appropriate target, and so on. One BSRAC member pointed out the awaited evaluation of the multi-annual plan for cod: that could have implications for the certification process. It was pointed out that the assessment of eastern Baltic cod was already underway, and it was up to the client to provide the information needed to carry out the assessment. Another member expressed reservations about labelling schemes in general, since all fish caught in the sea is organic. He also explained the problems caused by the effort regime in the cod fishery and expressed concerns that an effort regime was not the wisest method from a management point of view.

Another member pointed out that from a consumer point of view, labelling was a positive initiative – good for raising knowledge and awareness and improving the quality of the product. One particular concern for some at the meeting was that certification could create competition between the fisheries from different Baltic countries – between those who get certified and those who don't. The distinction between the state of the eastern and western Baltic cod stocks was also discussed. The BS RAC informed work and activities that the RAC had dealt with in connection with selectivity in the cod fishery, CFP reform, and the work on the long-term management plan for pelagic fisheries – where the interaction between cod and sprat had been discussed. It encouraged the FCI team to take a look at the BS RAC website and look at the recommendations that the BS RAC had made in connection with cod. Given the relevance of the Baltic certification work, we mentioned the possibility of FCI coming to a BSRAC meeting later this year to keep members updated.

### **HELCOM flatfish workshop**

BS RAC members: please contact me by Tuesday 2nd March if you are interested in taking part in this.

### **On 17<sup>th</sup> March a seminar in Simrishamn on sustainable fishery, see here:**

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Diverse/Seminarium%20Haallbart%20fiske.pdf>

Register with Simrishamn by 12<sup>th</sup> March

### **Remember the Helsinki meeting on Baltic Sea Strategy Priority Area 9 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010?**

We now have ALL the presentations on fisheries. See here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1420&kind=4&pagelid=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1420&kind=4&pagelid=1227)

Note in particular the interesting presentation by Sweden on regionalisation and “BALTFISH”. The next meeting is planned on 7<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> June, Stockholm.

### **Natura 2000**

In recent contacts with DG Environment, we have been encouraged to take a look at the following website to get an overview of the Natura 2000 network:

[http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura\\_2000/index.html](http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/index.html)

### **ICES Reminders and information**

#### **1. The Workshop on Implementing the ICES MSY Framework [WKFRAME], 22 – 26 March 2010**

This will be chaired by Ciaran Kelly, Ireland. The aim is 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. Please let me know if you intend to take part. Michael Andersen and I have registered from BS RAC.

## **2. ICES course “Opening the box: Stock assessment and fisheries advice for stakeholders, NGOs and policy-makers” held at ICES, Copenhagen 5–7 October 2010**

[http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/training/Stock%20Assessment%20and%20Fisheries%20advice%20for%20stakeholders\\_October2010.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/training/Stock%20Assessment%20and%20Fisheries%20advice%20for%20stakeholders_October2010.pdf)

ICES is well known for providing advice on many different topics regarding marine ecosystems. One of the advice topics deals with advice on fisheries management in the North East Atlantic. While the advisory process has been opened up to external observers since 2006, there is still a need to provide a better insight to the background and methods that are used to underpin the advice. This course is intended to fill that need. The course is directed at policy makers, NGO representatives and fisheries organizations. It costs € 300 to take part.

## **3. The Report of the Annual Meeting between ICES and the Regional Advisory Councils (MIRAC 2010)**

See here:

[http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2010/MIRAC/MIRAC\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2010/MIRAC/MIRAC_2010.pdf) (And note the chair’s summary in Annex 4)

Please find the Executive Summary from the Report right here:

### **MIRAC 2010 Executive Summary**

The fifth annual meeting between ICES and the European Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) was held at the Sea Fisheries Institute (MIR) in Gdynia, Poland, 26–27 January 2010. The objective of the meeting is to coordinate work between ICES and the RACs, and to provide a forum for the free and frank exchange of ideas concerning future collaborations.

The meeting was well attended by all the RACs of relevance to ICES (North Sea RAC, North Western Waters RAC, South Western Waters RAC, Pelagic RAC, Baltic Sea RAC and Long Distance RAC), by several members of the ICES Advisory Programme and the ACOM Chair (Mike Sissenwine). The meeting was initially chaired by Michael Andersen of the Danish Fishermen's Association and Tomas Linkowski of MIR who stepped in for Mike Sissenwine who was delayed but arrived by mid-afternoon of the 26 January.

In an open and frank way, the participants discussed issues of common interest to ICES and the RACs, like the collaboration on benchmark assessments including the need for fishers’ involvement, the new format of ICES advice as well as the new form of the ICES fisheries advice (MSY). The meeting was successful in aligning the work plans of ICES and the RACs, fine-tuning the cooperation, and it provided ample opportunities to explore future collaborations.

## **Action to postpone the April rule for the Baltic cod fishery – by the Baltic Fishermen’s network**

The Danish fishing newspaper “Fiskeritidende” reported in week 8 that the extreme winter weather has made it very hard for small-scale fishermen to carry out a normal cod fishery in the western Baltic – and problems with ice are expected to continue for good while yet. So the fishery is not expected to start up until the end of March. So the Baltic Fishermen’s Network (an organisation bringing together Baltic fishermen) has written to the Commission to ask for a dispensation from the normal closed period in April in areas 22 -24 (stated in the multi-annual plan for cod). This is not to ask for extra fishing days on any increase in fishing effort, but to be able to use the allocated days when it fits in with the weather conditions. .

## **From Russia with love**

I understand the Commission is planning to hold a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March in Kaliningrad with the Russian Federation in order to set up a joint fisheries committee and cooperation. In 2006 the EU and Russia reached

a fisheries agreement on fisheries cooperation and conservation of marine resources in the Baltic. It was ratified by the EU on 4th June 2009. The agreement contains provisions on shared management measures, issuing licenses, observing conservation measures as well as other areas as control, enforcement, inspection, scientific cooperation. Russia is responsible for about 5% of the fisheries resources in the Baltic in the area around Kaliningrad and St Petersburg. The aim of the agreement is to ensure a close cooperation between the EU and Russia.

### **Denmark has got a new fisheries minister**

In a major cabinet reshuffle announced on Tuesday 23rd February, the right wing member of parliament Henrik Høegh became new minister for food, agriculture and fisheries on Tuesday 23rd February Eva Kjer Hansen leaves the government. Henrik Høegh has long experience in agriculture – has been a member of the parliamentary committee for agriculture and been spokesman for food and agriculture. Fisheries is a new area of work for him.

### **From the Nordic Council: Pelagic complex in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

#### **Challenges and possibilities in the pelagic sector. Looking towards the future**

September 7-9 2010 NORDIC HOUSE, TÓRSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS

The Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat has announced a conference to be held under the Faroese chairmanship in the Nordic Fisheries Cooperation. Focus on pelagic species in the North East Atlantic. See here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/mod\\_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1447&kind=4&pageId=1227](http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1447&kind=4&pageId=1227)

For more information contact **Ásmundur Guðjonsson**, Senior Adviser at the Nordic Council.  
[ag@norden.org](mailto:ag@norden.org)

### **The latest Fisheries Secretariat newsletter has arrived**

<http://bk.venamail.com/display.php?M=705&C=0cdacbd3e583df8559c319f06bdb0265&S=117&L=1&N=92>

### **European Transport Workers' Federation Position paper on CFP Reform**

Go here to read more and to find the full position paper:

<http://www.itfglobal.org/etf/etf-news-online.cfm/newsdetail/4141>

### **The Eurofish magazine is now online!!!**

<http://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=7d70f17c7740ec2e5c0bca188&id=acf9bd19da&e=f9971c0f91>

### **Stockholm International Water Institute Swedish Baltic Sea Award 2010 (Call for nominations)**

In 2010 SIWI are trying to further increase and improve efforts on the Baltic Sea, and are seeking to spread the word on the opening of nominations 2010 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award as widely as possible.

We are asked publicise this and to consider nominating any actor or organisation whose work deserves to be acknowledged; and would benefit from the status and attention it would gain from receiving this honour.

Further information on the award is available here:

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

The nomination period for the 2010 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award is now open. The award honours innovations and new methods that protect the Baltic Sea water environment. Individuals, companies, organisations and actors within the public service sectors are all welcome to be nominated. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) administers the Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award. A jury appointed by the Swedish Government reviews the nominations, selects the winner and provides the written motivation for its choice. Information on nominations is kept confidential.



The work of the nominee to improve water quality in the Baltic Sea region can be among:

- Technology development and implementation
- Applied research
- Direct action
- Education and training
- Information and shaping of public opinion
- Policy development

Emphasis is placed on efforts that have had visible and measurable effects on the water resources in the Baltic Sea region.

To nominate a candidate for the award, use the on-line nomination form found at <http://fmh-siwi.no-ip.info/sbswa/>

Nominations must be submitted in English. The nomination deadline for this year's award is May 3, 2010