

Dear members and observers,

BSRAC news and meetings

General Assembly 11th May 2010 - the report from the meeting is now on our website here:

<http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/General%20Assembly/11052010/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Meetingreport110510OKSK.pdf>

The Joint Working Groups on 8th and 9th June 2010, Arlanda airport, Stockholm

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1472&kind=4&pagel=1106

If there are any more of you who intend to take part, we really need to know **as soon as possible**.

Note the revised agenda, which is a bit more detailed.

Executive Committee 6th July 2010, Hamburg

A draft agenda is in preparation – with you on Monday 7th June 2010. Any suggestions? You know where we are.

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1469&kind=4&pagel=1081

Please note that the deadline for booking a room at the hotel near to the meeting venue is **7th June 2010**.

after this date you can't be sure to get a room at this hotel.

BSRAC Meeting with the European Court of Auditors Thursday 3rd June 2010

Every two years the Court of Auditors does a study and makes a report on a subject linked to the CFP. Two years ago it was control and inspection. This time round it is the management of capacity, with a focus on the use of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). The study involves an examination of the money financed by the EFF, and what policies are financed by member states. Are the EU rules respected, e.g. on exit-entry of vessels? Fish stocks are under threat: is it because of too much capacity? The report will be finalised by next Easter 2011. A team of auditors is visiting specific member states which have fleets active in most EU waters: France, Spain, UK, Poland, Italy and Denmark. The Court of Auditors has written to all the RACs with a view to getting RAC input on this subject. The RACs are giving advice, and the Court of Auditors sees a structured form in the work and processes going on.

This week the team was visiting Denmark. And because they were in Denmark, they also visited the BSRAC for a couple of hours. It was unfortunately not possible to get members to the BS RAC office, because of the short notice. The Court of Auditors had drawn up a list of questions to discuss, see here:

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/weeks21_22/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20questionnaire%20BSRAC.pdf

I was not able to answer the very specific and detailed questions on overcapacity, but I was able to give a presentation of the BS RAC, its history and construction and an overview of the subjects and work areas dealt with so far by the BS RAC. There was some discussion of the cod plan in the Baltic and its implications for effort and capacity. I highlighted the recommendations that have come out from the BSRAC on the cod plan and demersal fisheries. There was also a discussion of transferrable fishing rights – and here we referred to the opinions put forward by the BS RAC in connection with CFP reform. Discards were also touched upon, and I explained that there was very much debate, discussion on this subject, as well as several meetings, where the BSRAC was playing an active role. The Court of Auditors would give thought to whether it could be useful to come to a BS RAC meeting to discuss specific issues with the members, or whether they would write to the RAC with further questions. They would not be visiting every RAC.

From the NS RAC advice on cod recovery

The NSRAC has sent their latest advice on Cod Recovery. It's here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1485&kind=4&pagel=1228

Commission and EP news and meetings

More girl power: Welcome to Lowri Evans

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd floor | 1553 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 3393 5000 | Fax +45 3393 5009 | bsrac@bsrac.org | www.bsrac.org

Note from the BS RAC Secretariat: TO SAVE MONEY AND PAPER, PLEASE ONLY PRINT IF NECESSARY

In addition to a woman Commissioner (Maria Damanaki), DG Mare is to get a female (and British) Director-General. Her professional experience is within audit and accountancy, and she has many years experience in European institutions. See here:

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/weeks21_22/evans_en.pdf

More on the discards/selectivity meeting in BxIs 19th -21st May 2010

Lisa Borges (DG Mare) has sent us the final version of the minutes of the second meeting of the Technical Working Group to eradicate discards in the Baltic Sea fisheries. And the group conclusions were presented by her last week at the Baltic 2020 Conference "What do we gain by establishing a non-discarding fishery in the Baltic?" (see below) and they will be presented at the Baltfish meeting next week (7-8 June in Stockholm). You can read the minutes from the meeting here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1466&kind=4&pagelid=1227

European Parliament meeting of the EP Fisheries Committee with national parliaments 1st June 2010

Commissioner Maria Damanaki gave an account of the main issues on the road ahead. Her speech covered regionalisation, co-decision together with the EP, the markets dimension of the CFP, as well as international and bilateral relations. She also devoted speaking time to individually tradable rights and gave some examples of member states where this has been implemented – quoting two Baltic states: Denmark and Estonia. She also mentioned the small-scale fisheries and the importance of enhancing the possibilities for these vessels. And last, but not least: aquaculture, which she considers closely linked to the CFP: Read her speech here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/286&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

What to do with existing long-term management plans (LTMPs): existing and new ones?

On 17 and 18 May, the Commission organised a meeting with STECF, the NSRAC, the NWWRAC and the SWWRAC to discuss a possible methodology to evaluate existing LTMPs and assess new ones. LTMPs for sole and plaice in the North Sea, sole Western Channel and sole Bay of Biscay have been chosen as test cases. The idea is to ensure a proper involvement of the RACs in this process and at an early stage. It is a learning-by-doing process to be improved / adapted overtime. The main conclusions of the meeting are below. (The methodology proposed has been endorsed by the participants):

- There is a need to organise a scoping meeting with the RACs and the national authorities concerned at the very beginning of the process to identify the key issues and needs for data.
- RACs should participate to the STECF working groups, as active observers.
- - To make the process flexible, 3 series of meetings could be organised during the year, before each STECF plenary: in February/March, in May/June and in September/October.
- A clear calendar should be established at the beginning of the year (ideally November Y-1) so that RACs can organise themselves.

A report of this meeting is under preparation and will be distributed as soon as possible.

Don't stop reading: Baltic cod comes now.....

For the 3 LTMPs for Sole, Plaice in the North Sea and cod in the Baltic, there will be a scoping meeting in Copenhagen on 7-11 June 2010. RACs are invited to take part, and Michael Andersen will represent the BS RAC. He will inform the BS RAC working group next week on what happens.

An STECF working group should then take place in October and the November Plenary could adopt the STECF report. On this basis, a non-paper could be prepared by the Commission for formal consultation of the RACs at the beginning of 2011.

More STECF: a report on the fishing effort regime in the Baltic

The STECF sub-group on "fishing effort management" held its first annual meeting in Lisbon in Portugal, 21-25 May 2009. A follow-up meeting was held in Ispra, Italy, 28 September – 2 October 2009. A progress report from the first meeting was presented at the June STECF plenary. This report summarises data presented and the discussions and results of both meetings. See it here:

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd floor | 1553 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 3393 5000 | Fax +45 3393 5009 | bsrac@bsrac.org | www.bsrac.org

Note from the BS RAC Secretariat: TO SAVE MONEY AND PAPER, PLEASE ONLY PRINT IF NECESSARY

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/Documents%20Section/STEF/STECF-SGMOS-09-05%20FishingEffortin%20Baltic_1.pdf

Do you want to know more about regional policy?

From: The European Commission team for the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy gives a welcome and announces the first newsletter for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. It will be a bi-monthly newsletter and will update on what is happening: information about results on the ground, new projects and key policy developments, and public events. See here, and note the dates at the bottom:

http://www.inforegiocodoc.eu/maillinglist/faces/newsletter/preview_newsletter.jsp?id=139

Remember the European Commission is pleased to be organising a Policy Day on Saturday 17th July, entitled "Fisheries Policy Reform in the European Union", held at Le Corum in Montpellier, France.

See here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1471&kind=4&pagelid=1227

<http://www.colloque.ird.fr/iifet-2010/policyday.html>

The June edition of the Trawler from European Parliament

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/publicationsCom.do;jsessionid=DC639C3141BEECE9C204F9070556261E.node2?language=EN&body=PECH>

A reminder from the European Parliament: A Public Hearing 9th June

On 'Conservation and Management of the fishery resources of the fleet in view of the reform of the CFP' in the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels. (Room ASP 3E2 - located on the third floor of the ASP building). On behalf of Ms Carmen FRAGA ESTÉVEZ, Chairwomen of the Fisheries Committee and Mr Marian-Jean MARINESCU, EPP Group Vice-Chairman, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to attend this event.

Programme and a participation form here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1484&kind=4&pagelid=1227

Confirm attendance at the latest by 4th June 2010. EPP-FisheriesHearing@europarl.europa.eu

NB Our very own Steve Karnicki holds a presentation under the subject heading "Management of the fleet: two different approaches: Small-scale vs. Industrial Fisheries"

Other news and meetings

To ban or not to ban, that is the question.....

Baltic 2020 conference: "What do we gain by establishing a non-discarding fishery in the Baltic?"

There were presentations from science, research, industry, stakeholders and government at this one-day conference. Björn Carlson opened the meeting and followed the discussions very closely and took an active role. Basically everyone at the conference agreed with the fact that discards are undesirable. But how do we get rid of discards – this was where the differing opinions emerged. The Danish ministry representative argues for a change from landing quotas to catch quotas. Michael Andersen, representing the BS RAC said that methods to avoid discards should be found instead of banning discards, which in itself created bigger problems. Some felt that a discard ban would force fishermen to switch to more selective fishing methods. Many agreed that a market should be created for the small fish - for example pet food. And with the market in mind it was pointed out that consumers are demanding a ban on discards. At the end of the day, the price that fishermen may have to pay for more freedom to exploit the resource is, for example, to have cameras on board the vessel.

If you follow the link, you can see the programme from the meeting as well as the presentations made by the speakers:

http://www.balticsea2020.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=209%3Autkastkonferens-i-koepenhavn-27-maj&catid=39%3Apressmeddelanden&Itemid=54&lang=en

Danish readers can find detailed reporting on this conference in this week's (week 22) edition of "Fiskeritidende." (pages 8 and 9).

Baltfish Monday and Tuesday 7th and 8th June 2010, Stockholm

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd floor | 1553 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 3393 5000 | Fax +45 3393 5009 | bsrac@bsrac.org | www.bsrac.org

Note from the BS RAC Secretariat: TO SAVE MONEY AND PAPER, PLEASE ONLY PRINT IF NECESSARY

The Swedish government is inviting administrations, stakeholders and some environmental NGOs to this two day meeting. It's been set up within the framework of the EU regional strategy for the Baltic and will serve as a forum for exchange of ideas, viewpoints and information. This is the first meeting, and the actual shape and form of the Baltfish process, as well as membership/participation will be discussed and decided on here. And surprise, surprise, one point on the agenda is a road map for introducing a discard ban in the Baltic. See the programme and participants' list here:

http://www.bsrac.org/mod_inc/?p=itemModule&id=1462&kind=4&pagelid=1227

Reine J. Johansson will make a presentation on behalf of BS RAC

Latest news from the fisheries Secretariat

<http://bk.venamail.com/display.php?M=705&C=0cdacbd3e583df8559c319f06bdb0265&S=152&L=1&N=112>

And here is FishSec view on the ICES advice for the Baltic:

<http://www.fishsec.org/article.asp?CategoryID=1&ContextID=622>

And what do the environmental NGOs think about the Commission's Communication on Fishing opportunities for 2011?

Two of the NGOs involved in this exercise are members of BSRAC (Fisheries Secretariat and WWF)

See here:

[http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/weeks21_22/NGOs%20comments%20on%20fishing%20opportunities%20for%202011%20final%20\(2\)_1.pdf](http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Newsletter/weeks21_22/NGOs%20comments%20on%20fishing%20opportunities%20for%202011%20final%20(2)_1.pdf)

The Nordic Council reports on several things Baltic:

1. Regional solutions for European challenges

The financial crisis has hit many of the countries around the Baltic Sea hard. The Baltic Development Forum (BDF) 2010 focuses on how regional co-operation can help to solve Europe's challenges. Nordic co-operation is good example. See here:

<http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/regional-solutions-for-european-challenges>

2. Nordic pressure for the Baltic Sea environment

Sinikka Bohlin (Social Democrats, Sweden) promises stronger pressure from the Nordic MPs in the struggle for the recovery of the Baltic Sea. See here:

<http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/nordic-pressure-for-the-baltic-sea-environment>

3. And details of a report: From ecosystem services to benefits of the Baltic Sea - indicators and threats

<http://www.norden.org/no/publikasjoner/publikasjoner/2010-544>

This report is an outcome of the Nordic Workshop on Economic Analysis of the State of the Baltic Sea (NorWEBS), which was held in Helsinki 19.11.2009 to 20.11.2009. This work received financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The workshop was preceded by a survey assessing ecological indicators for economic valuation. The survey was sent to economists and marine experts in countries bordering the Baltic Sea. The survey results along with notes on the discussions in the workshop provide the backbone of this report. The report reflects these sources with additional insights from the ecosystem valuation literature.

4. Nordic reporting on eco-labels

<http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/ecolabelling-contributes-to-poverty-reduction>

History of Marine Animal Populations Newsletter

See here:

Note the one on Russian Salmon

http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001wOJ9jnfVkvhuPyB8ksn3efyfiJIK_U6X6XQ4D9bFzRrQsiltkujBSeahxJericPxMYBqE42MXC-thzj1cfpsyC6LCA-cRzp-HoZXAqrg0o_S9RU6G25lcK8YMP5C1M_hXfwd5Af34Je3h5QA1VbAFYw9ifLbAmD989jmKblEH4VICsNraedNilq6acYAgSYz

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd floor | 1553 Copenhagen V | Tel. +45 3393 5000 | Fax +45 3393 5009 | bsrac@bsrac.org | www.bsrac.org

Note from the BS RAC Secretariat: TO SAVE MONEY AND PAPER, PLEASE ONLY PRINT IF NECESSARY

Maps from FOGA weeks 20 and 21 and 22

FOGAs maps continue to come in, based on information from Nord Stream. Weeks 20, 21 and 22 cover mainly the Swedish, Finnish and Russian economic zones.

VASAB expert and stakeholder meeting that will take place on 8 June 2010 in Kaunas, Lithuania.

VASAB expert and stakeholder meeting is traditional annual event focusing on important topics that have spatial consequences for the whole Baltic Sea Region. This year VASAB will focus on demographic tendencies and labor market development, how they impact spatial development of urban and rural areas of our Region.

The meeting is organized back to back with Baltic 21 Lighthouse project NEW BRIDGES workshop (more information: <http://www.urbanrural.net/index.php/ur:events>).

Final programme here:

http://www.bsrac.org/archive/Dokumenter/External%20events/2010/VASAB_Agenda_FINAL_24_05_2010.pdf

MSC Assessment Update - Revised timescale for Western Baltic Spring Spawning Herring Fishery Assessment

Moody Marine has announced some revisions to the timescale for the assessment of this fishery against the Marine Stewardship Council's Principles. The assessment team has been considering new stock information which has delayed progress with the preparation of the draft report.

The revised schedule and full announcement of these changes and the schedule for the remaining steps of this assessment can be downloaded from the MSC website

<http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/in-assessment/north-east-atlantic/western-baltic-spring-spawning-herring/assessment-downloads-1/21.05.2010-western-baltic-herring-assessment-timescale-advisory.pdf>

Further information about this assessment can be found on the MSC website

<http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/in-assessment/north-east-atlantic/western-baltic-spring-spawning-herring>

Please contact JIM ANDREWS if you have any queries about this announcement.

Email: j.andrews@moodyint.com

From Eurofish – their latest publications

New publications from **FAO GLOBEFISH** series are now available:

GRP Vol. 99 Viet Nam - Seafood from Waterland, Price €35

Viet Nam's rise to the top of the global seafood industry is described and analysed. The principal fishery products are examined and their potential discussed. The emphasis is on how Viet Nam can make this industry sustainable, maximize its processing potential and improve the conditions of the fishermen.

GRP Vol. 100 Importance of APEC in world fisheries and aquaculture, Price €35

This document highlights the importance of APEC economies in fisheries and trade. This importance has been growing during the past decade. APEC economies are major fish producers, traders and consumers. Fisheries and aquaculture are the source of income for 26 million fishers, which means that some 100 million people depend on this sector for their livelihood.

GRP Vol. 98 The Seafood Market in Greece, Price €35

This book summarizes the Seafood Market in Greece, including the importance of the Greek Industry as producers of seabass and seabream.

Read more <http://www.eurofish.dk/index.php?id=3852>