



КОНСУЛТАТИВЕН СЪВЕТ ЗА ЧЕРНО
МОРЕ /КСЧМ/
CONSILIUL CONSULTATIV PENTRU MAREA
NEAGRA

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MINUTES

Of the meeting of Work Group 1 and Wok Group 2 of BISAC

Topic: Veined rapa whelk – status of the stock. Stocks of local populations in the Black Sea.

On 12th November 2019, at The Roslin-Dimyat Hotel in Varna, a meeting of Work Group 1 and Work Group 2 at the BISAC was held in accordance with the following Agenda:

1. Status of the white rapa whelk and white clam stocks in the Black Sea;
2. Status of the stocks of local species of fish in the Black Sea, and quota trends. (Presentation by Assoc.Prof. Dr. Violin Raykov, Institute of Oceanology, Varna);
3. Drafting recommendations for criteria for defining small-scale fisheries in the Black Sea;
4. Position of scientists and administration;
5. Discussions and comments;
6. Miscellaneous.

The meeting was attended, in the capacity of guests and participants, by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elitsa Petrova-Pavlova from the Institute of Fish Resources (IFR), Varna, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violin Raykov, Institute of Oceanology, Varna.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the BISAC, Mr. Yordan Gospodinov. Addresses to the members of the BISAC and guests at the meeting followed.

Assoc. Prof. Violin Raykov made a presentation on "Stocks of local species of fish in the Black Sea".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elitsa Petrova-Pavlova made a presentation on: "Research into white clam and white rapa whelk, and management of the stocks".

Discussions and comments followed:

Assoc. Prof. Petrova was asked a question about the type of dredge they had used in their research into white clam, and she responded that IFR used a mechanical dredge.

Mr. Dimitar Kanariev: Are the benefits of the white rapa whelk as a commercial resource and those of black clam as an environmental factor, established? He also asked Assoc. Prof. Petrova about the current status of black clam stocks and the relevant trends.

Assoc. Prof. Petrova: The fields of black clam disappeared as early as the 1970s as a result of the elimination of this species by the white rapa whelk. By 2005, the fields of black clam had been recovered. The situation with the two species is changing rapidly: research carried out in 2017 into the black clam stocks established that the stocks had been decreasing below 35m and increasing above the 35th meter. The white rapa whelk, on the other hand, is an invasive species in the Black Sea, while, on the other hand, it has been listed in the commercial species list. The increased harvesting of this resource in Bulgaria has resulted in a decrease of its size /quantity/.

Mr. Daniel Buhai: It will be a good idea to have information provided by Romanian scientists on their research, so that a comparison between the two countries could be made.

The issue with the classification of the waters of the Black Sea was also discussed. Assoc. Prof. Petrova explained that IFR offered its assistance to BACF in this endeavor, but nothing has been done so far.

Mr. Yordan Gospodinov added that the BISAC has already brought this issue up and has sent recommendations to the national institutions in both member-states, responsible for implementing this process, and has also informed DG MARE.

Mr. Kiril Zheglev: It is vital that research institutes should carry out their research at a suitable time, depending on the investigated species, and taking into account marine currents, water temperature, wind direction, etc., and not only when they have the necessary funding for such research. For instance, when investigating white rapa whelk, it is important to carry out the research at a certain water temperature, because when it is below certain degrees, the white rapa whelk buries itself in the sand. Therefore, any research conducted at that time would be flawed.

Mr. Florin Luccian: Scientists in Romania also carry out their research when they have available funds, without taking into account the specifics of the weather.

The opinion that began to take shape was that the BISAC should prepare recommendations for research into the white rapa whelk and the white clam throughout the year, taking into account seasonal specifics, currents, winds, water, water temperatures, etc. A recommendation to the scientists and institutions in Bulgaria and Romania should also be prepared – a recommendation to carry out such research using the expertise and capacity of fishing organizations, too, while the business should provide ships suitable for the respective research, with crew and appropriate equipment, free of charge.

As there were no other items on the Agenda, the meeting was declared closed.

The Minutes were taken and prepared by: Mrs. Elena Peneva

Chairman of BISAC: Dr. Yordan Gospodinov