



## Activity Report 2013

# Activity Report 2013

# Highlights

## Common Fisheries Policy reform

In 2013, the OCEAN2012 coalition, co-founded by Seas At Risk in 2008 with the aim of an ambitious reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), grew further to over 180 members. OCEAN2012 was very successful in communicating science-based and well prepared arguments to Brussels-based and national policy makers. Collaboration in the coalition worked well and contributed significantly to the outcome of the negotiations on the new CFP. Besides its contributions to the work of OCEAN2012, SAR also sent briefings, jointly with the Fish Secretariat, to the Council and Parliament and prepared advice in several Regional Advisory Councils on the budget for data collection in the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). SAR members were kept informed and were provided material to support the campaign on a national level.

The new basic regulation of the CFP is seen largely as a win for environmental NGOs and their policy goals, for progressive Member States and Members of the European Parliament. Environmental sustainability is the overarching principle, and overfishing shall be ended (through fish mortality levels below F<sub>msy</sub>) by 2015 where possible and by 2020 at the latest for all stocks. Fishing limits are going to be set according to scientific advice in multiannual plans, taking into consideration economic and social impacts as well. Member States are required to assess their fleet capacity according to their fishing opportunities, and they need to provide an action plan to decrease capacity when there is overcapacity for certain fisheries. Member States are also required to allocate fishing opportunities to operators based on transparent and objective criteria including environmental, social and economic factors, which allows them to provide incentives for low impact fisheries.

## Marine litter

Seas At Risk's work on marine litter took a flight in 2013 with a focus on raising awareness about the importance of setting ambitious marine litter reduction targets across Europe. Seas At Risk presented NGO views on target setting at the European conference on marine litter in Berlin, organised by the European Commission. As an input to the conference, SAR published a joint NGO marine litter manifesto on target setting and measures, which was handed over to Commissioner Potocnik. Seas At Risk furthermore engaged in the ongoing processes for the review of the Port Reception Facilities Directive and the waste legislation review. Two studies were conducted to support this engagement. SAR has been very active in the OSPAR Inter-sessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter and the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter. SAR presented the results of the two studies and provided input and expertise to the groups, drawing on SAR membership's extensive experience on the topic.

## Shipping

There were two very significant developments in 2013 in areas that have for several years been an important focus of Seas At Risk's advocacy and campaigning work on ship greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The European Commission finally published its proposal for an EU ship GHG measure, and although it was only a proposal for monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions (MRV), it is an important and necessary first step on the road to properly regulating ship GHG emissions in Europe. The second important development was at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), where for the first time and after many years of pressure from Seas At Risk and other environmental NGOs, an agreement was reached to start work on a binding GHG emission reduction measure for existing ships.

## Activities

A number of successful events were organised during the course of the year including 3 policy workshops (on marine litter, maritime spatial planning and aquaculture) and 2 side events at the IMO. SAR was invited to speak at numerous events. In addition, SAR produced two studies related to marine litter; one on the Port Reception Facilities Directive and another one reviewing the potential of improving waste legislation to reduce marine litter. On greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships it undertook studies on the multiple environmental benefits of reducing ship speed, ship GHG monitoring, reporting and verification, and the energy efficiency of newly built ships.

Lobby work was undertaken in respect of all of Seas At Risk's policy priorities. Seas At Risk actively participated in and/or prepared various submissions to numerous meetings associated with the EU institutions and in meetings of the UNFCCC, IMO, the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, and OSPAR. Seas At Risk has also regularly reported to members on discussions taking place at these events.

The public web site continued to play an important role allowing SAR to communicate effectively with the outside world. Press work took place on a number of issues, and this often involved joint-NGO press releases and statements. Seas At Risk has updated its web pages and has sent several press releases, regular newsletters and news alerts as developments took place. In addition, Seas At Risk is more and more using Twitter as a communication channel.

The building of capacity among SAR's membership was achieved through assembly meetings, policy workshops, email, skype communication and the intranet.

# Results

The following results and impacts were achieved during 2013:

- An enhanced awareness of the impact of shipping and fisheries on climate change; of the scale of the problem and impacts of marine litter; of the reform the CFP and the need to revise deep water fisheries management, and of the need for a shift to low impact fisheries.
- Work at the IMO and EU level on GHG emissions from shipping has focused on the establishment of a system of MRV, with an EU agreement on this now likely in 2014 and the item formally on the IMO's agenda. At IMO the MRV issue is being discussed for the first time in the context of future binding measures for *existing* ships.
- The OCEAN2012 coalition maintained its role as key stakeholder in the CFP reform process, and grew further to over 180 members.
- The new CFP basic regulation is seen largely as a win for environmental NGOs and their policy goals, for progressive Member States and Members of the European Parliament.
- Due to well-prepared SAR and allied NGO staff NGOs are increasingly recognized as valuable stakeholders that contribute constructively to RAC discussions.
- In line with the increased recognition of NGOs as crucial stakeholders since the establishment of the Regional Advisory Councils on fisheries was the decision by the co-legislators to increase the number of seats for civil society in the (R)ACs' executive committees from one-third to 40%.
- Discussions in the context of the CFP reform on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund did not conclude until end of 2013. The state of the latest triologue negotiations were more mixed from an environmental point of view, with more aid to be available for data collection, control and enforcement along the lines of NGO demand, but also with aid available for temporary cessation of vessels and engine replacement which would contribute to overcapacity.
- The vote of the Fisheries Committee on deep sea fisheries in November took on board four of SAR's and allied NGO's recommendations: on impact assessments, the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, the avoidance of by-catch species, a depth based approach, and a better science-based approach to quota setting. These results were confirmed in the vote in plenary in December, and a re-introduction of the phase-out of deep sea bottom trawls and gillnets initially proposed by the Commission was missed by only 16 votes.
- The Council and Parliament Briefings providing guidance on the reform and implementation of the CFP have raised the profile of Seas At Risk within the European institutions and national governments. SAR is increasingly recognised as a valuable and reliable source of information by EU institutions and governments.
- A substantial increase in the profile of the problem of marine litter and in regulatory interest in taking action to solve it, in particular through SAR's work on the revision processes of the Port

Reception Facilities Directive and the EU waste legislation package. SAR also managed to put the need for quantifiable reduction targets on the policy agenda through among others its presentation in the Berlin European marine litter conference.

- A continued involvement in the MSFD implementation process through participation in CIS meetings and the gradual build-up of NGO engagement in the run-up to the Article 12 review of implementation by the Commission (which will be published in 2014).
- An enhanced involvement of NGOs in the Blue Growth policy processes, and in particular in the follow up of the proposed Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management. This led to a number of NGO asks to be taken on board by the EP in its amendments.
- Seas At Risk has assumed a leading and coordinating role in NGO involvement in the setting of aquaculture policies and is worked towards a joint NGO position among others by the organisation of a well-attended workshop.
- A membership better informed about EU and other international activities affecting the marine environment.
- Sound organisational finances and improved communications.

## Organisational development

Generally speaking SAR has worked with improved efficiency achieving much with a modest budget.

In 2013 SAR has increased its workforce to 5.2 FTE and recruited a part time communication officer and a new marine litter policy officer, replacing one staff member who combined both tasks; a combination which proved to be less effective. Staff continued to invest in longer-term funding applications and in broadening the funder base, so as to achieve an enhanced financial stability for the organisation in the long term.

SAR continued to implement its mid-term policy strategy agreed in 2012, with an effort to focus on fewer issues worked on in greater depth. Therefore, SAR continued to focus in 2013 on climate, shipping, fisheries and pollution issues. Of course a balance has to be achieved and the need to provide support to members on a number of other issues means there is a natural limit to how far the organisation can narrow its area of work.

We believe that these improvements will not only make our work more effective, but they will also make SAR a more attractive umbrella for national organisations.

# Membership in 2013

At the end of 2013 Seas At Risk had twenty national member organisations from fourteen countries and one international member organisation

Belgium	Sea First Foundation Natuurpunt
Denmark	Danmarks Naturfredningsforening Levende Hav
France	Surfrider Foundation Europe France Nature Environnement
Germany	BUND – Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschland
Greece	Mediterranean SOS network
Ireland	Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment
Italy	Legambiente
Netherlands	Stichting De Noordzee Waddenvereniging
Norway	Norges Naturvernforbund
Portugal	Liga Para a Protecção da Natureza Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente
Slovenia	EcoVitae
Spain	ENT Foundation
Sweden	Svenska Naturskyddsföreningen
United Kingdom	Marine Conservation Society
International	European Environmental Bureau

# Funding in 2013

In addition to membership fees, Seas At Risk received funds from the following external sources:

- The European Commission (DG Environment);
- The Adessium Foundation;
- The Pew Charitable Trusts;
- The Waterloo Foundation;
- The Oak Foundation;
- The MAVA Foundation;
- Patagonia
- The European Climate Foundation;
- Climate Works.



for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

---

**Seas At Risk**

Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 893 0965

E-mail: [secretariat@seas-at-risk.org](mailto:secretariat@seas-at-risk.org)

Twitter: @SeasAtRisk

[seas-at-risk.org](http://seas-at-risk.org)