

Highlights

Climate friendly, low impact fisheries and CFP reform

Seas At Risk has continued its role as founding and steering group member of the OCEAN2012 coalition, which grew to almost 150 member organisations by the end of 2011. OCEAN2012 has produced a variety of documents, reports and position papers, and has organised and participated in several public meetings and meetings with decision-makers – Seas At Risk and the coalition have therefore established themselves as one of the main stakeholders in the CFP reform process. Simultaneously, a larger NGO coalition was formed, including BirdLife Europe, Greenpeace, Oceana, OCEAN2012 and WWF, focusing on Parliamentary work regarding CFP reform.

One of Seas At Risk's main concerns has been to use the CFP reform process as an opportunity to promote low impact fisheries at EU level, and to that end SAR has published a brochure summarising the main findings and recommendations of a new study on low impact fisheries. SAR has also organised a very successful and well attended event on the issue at the European Parliament, hosted by 3 MEPs of different political groups and featuring Commissioner Damanaki as the keynote speaker. The broad attendance at the event has sparked additional interest on low impact fisheries, and SAR has been successful in redirecting the endless debate on large scale vs small scale fisheries, by arguing that low impact fisheries are a more accurate term, and can apply both to large and small scale fisheries.

Marine litter

After years of campaigning for stricter control of ship waste dumping at sea, Seas At Risk celebrated a major success in achieving substantial revisions to global rules governing garbage discharges from ships, as adopted at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in July 2011. Being the only International NGO actively working on ship source garbage, and working closely with SAR member the North Sea Foundation within the Clean Shipping Coalition, the result of the amendments to Annex V of MARPOL were never far from assured with a formidable industry lobby working to weaken the amendments, not to mention governments supportive of industry interests. However, SAR made numerous interventions during correspondence group and working group meetings and submitted detailed proposals and submissions to the IMO's environment committee in the years leading up to the adoption of the new Annex V and throughout 2011. The new regulation won't prevent illegal ship waste dumping, but the new regulation will substantially deter such activities.

GHG emissions from ships

While publication was delayed until 2012, the completion of the bulk of the work on a groundbreaking new study on regulated slow steaming and the presentation of its preliminary findings to both the ECCP WG6 and to industry and government officials at a joint SAR/T&E seminar was undoubtedly a highlight of 2011. The study, conducted by CE Delft, addressed technical and legal aspects and concluded that there were no barriers to the introduction of regulated slow steaming either at EU level or globally. A cost-benefit analysis showed there to be substantial societal gains from reducing the speed of the fleet, and the study further strengthened our knowledge of the huge environmental gains that attend reduced speed. The study is likely to have a profound impact on future measures at both EU and IMO level.

Overview

Seas At Risk is now benefiting from a number of changes made in recent years and during the last year Seas At Risk has benefitted from its enhanced organisational structure. In 2011 SAR has been able to enhance its workforce from 3.8 FTE in 2010 to 4.3 FTE at the end of 2011. 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.

Beyond this SAR has continued to implement a clear strategic plan with a focus on fewer issues worked on in greater depth. Therefore, SAR continued to focus in 2011 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.

Lessons learnt are already being put to practise: more time and effort is being spent on fundraising, with evident positive effects for the organisation and the policy work; focussed projects have been developed and have been granted funds for 2011 and beyond; additional staff members to be eventually hired will be based in Brussels; strategies for communicating with members and with the public have been devised and are being put to the test. 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.

Activities

A number of successful events were organised during the course of the year including an event in the European Parliament on Low Impact Fisheries and the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, a seminar on the GHG mitigation potential of speed limits for ships, three policy workshops, and a meeting of the European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC) network. SAR was invited to speak at several events.

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, International Maritime Organisation, 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 started making use of Twitter in 2011.

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

Results

The following results and impacts were achieved during 2011:

- An enhanced awareness of the impact of climate change on the oceans and of shipping & fisheries on climate change; of the scale of the problem and impacts of marine litter; of the need to substantially reform the CFP and 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 ensured continued civil society pressure on the development of market-based mechanisms (MBMs) and efficiency standards for new ships, and has generated the interest of policy makers in the mitigation possibilities of regulated slow steaming as promoted by Seas At Risk, which is now firmly placed on the political agenda.
- An enhanced role of the OCEAN2012 coalition as a key stakeholder in the CFP reform process. By the end of 2011 the coalition counted almost 150 members from 18 European countries and some African countries. The European Commission has published its legislative proposal for the reform of the CFP and included some of OCEAN2012's priorities, such as the principle of MSY as a limit rather than a target, fishing limits based on scientific advice, and subsidies being conditional on compliance with the rules of the CFP. Some references to low impact fisheries and access criteria were also introduced in the Commission proposal.
- A SAR leaflet and event in the European Parliament, which attracted a large number of participants, sparked additional interest of policy makers and fishers in low impact fisheries, and contributed to the debate on the CFP reform.
- The Council Briefings providing guidance on the implementation of the CFP have raised the profile of Seas At Risk within the European institutions and national governments, which increasingly turned towards Seas At Risk for further information/guidance/queries on Commission proposals relating to fisheries.

- Work at the IMO has contributed to amendments to existing regulations which will support the reduction of garbage dumped by ships at sea.
- Work at the OSPAR Commission contributed to discussions on the setting of environmental targets in the context of MSFD implementation.
- A membership better informed about EU and other international activities affecting the marine environment.
- Sound organisational finances and improved communications.

Membership in 2011

At the end of 2011 Seas At Risk had sixteen national member organisations from eleven countries and one international member organisation

Belgium	Bond Beter Leefmilieu Sea First Foundation
Denmark	Danmarks Naturfredningsforening Levende Hav
France	Surfrider Foundation Europe
Germany	BUND – Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschland
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
Sweden	Svenska Naturskyddsföreningen
United Kingdom	Marine Conservation Society
International	European Environmental Bureau

Funding in 2011

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

- The European Commission (DG Environment);
- The Dutch Ministry for Environment, Housing and Spatial Planning (VROM);
- The Pew Charitable Trusts;
- The Waterloo Foundation;
- The Oak Foundation;
- The MAVA Foundation.