

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – JANUARY 2021

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Monday, 25 January 2021, 16.45 – 18.45 &

Tuesday, 26 January 2021, 9.00 – 12.00 & 13.45 – 15.45

ANTALL 4Q1 & VISIOCONFERENCE

(Brussels time)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Vote on the draft report on “Fisheries Control” (1st part: compromise amendments)**
- ▶ **Exchange of views with Mr Ricardo Serrão Santos, Portuguese Minister of Maritime Affairs**
- ▶ **Public Hearing on "Co-management of EU fisheries at local level"**
- ▶ **Debate on the PECH opinion to the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement and on the Commission proposal for a “Brexit Adjustment Reserve”**
- ▶ **Presentation of the PECH draft opinion to the “Farm to Fork” Strategy**

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AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

1 + 5 February 2021

22 + 23 February 2021

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



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Pierre KARLESKIND
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

Early this month the new EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement – provisionally in force pending Parliament's approval - was on our Committee agenda with a debriefing on its "Fisheries Chapter". While expressing relief that an agreement was achieved after all, and that it managed to preserve the access to waters, resources and markets, Members deplored nonetheless the loss of 25% of historic fishing rights held by European fleets in British waters. This constitutes a major setback for the stakeholders concerned, in particular for the regions most dependent on these fishing grounds. Also, great concern was expressed about the uncertainties on how the Agreement will be implemented after the 5½ year transition period.

For this reason, the PECH Committee will have to look very closely at how this agreement is implemented by the UK side in practice over the coming months. EU vessels must obtain fishing licenses within a reasonable time and be allowed access to UK waters in a non-discriminatory way. We will also follow very closely the roll-out of the "Brexit Adjustment Reserve" recently proposed by the Commission. This reserve will have to provide for a fair compensation for the damage suffered by the EU fishing and aquaculture sector as direct consequences of Brexit.

Two more milestones need to be mentioned: while the deal on the future European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) was finally closed in December after a year-long negotiation, this week we take the vote in Committee on the "Fisheries Control" draft report. After six Shadows' meetings and 14 technical rounds plus several public debates, this report is now ready for the vote – to be taken in two steps due to the large number of amendments and the complex "remote-voting" modus. This report will shape for the next decade the way in which EU fisheries are monitored, so it deserved all our attention.

Best wishes,

Pierre KARLESKIND

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna , <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> COM(2020)0670 - C9-0336/2020 2020/0302 (COD) PECH/9/04509	Mato	COD	TBC	TBC
Amending the Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation COM(2020)0215 - C9-0157/2020 2020/0095(COD) PECH/9/03131	Carvalhais	COD	16/11/2020	MARCH 2021 (TBC)
Fisheries control COM(2018)0368 - C8-0238/2018 2018/0193 (COD) PECH/9/00323	Aguilera	COD	25/01/2021 01/02/2021 05/02/2021	MARCH 2021 (tbc)
Reports adopted in PECH Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EU) No 2017/2107, (EU) No 2019/[NAFO], (EU) No 1936/2001, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 COM(2019)619 - C9-0188/2019 2019/0272(COD) PECH/9/02027	Ferrandino	COD	Trilogue closed on 10/11/2020	MARCH 2021 (TBC)
Reports adopted in EP 1st reading (awaiting 2nd reading)	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 2018/0210(COD) PECH/9/01216	Mato	COD	Trilogue closed: 03/12/2020 Vote on prov. agreement: tbc	1st Reading adoption 04/04/2019
INI reports*	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems 2019/2158 (INI) PECH/9/01965	Van Dalen	INI*	May (tbc)	TBC

* As long as the EP operates in "business continuity mode", Committees were instructed to focus on priority legislative files; INI reports were presented/discussed only from September onwards.

Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea 2019/2159 (INI) PECH/9/01967	Hristov	INI*	TBC	TBC
The impact on fisheries of marine litter 2019/2160 (INI) PECH/9/01968	Chabaud	INI*	22-23/02/2021	TBC
Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities 2019/2161 (INI) PECH/9/01969	Pizarro	INI*	17/03/2021	APRIL 2021
Consequences for fish stocks and fisheries related to rising seawater temperatures 2019/2163 (INI) PECH/9/01972	Conte	INI*	17/03/2021	TBC
Securing the objectives of the landing obligation under Article 15 CFP 2019/2177 (INI) PECH/9/01993	Gade	INI*	22-23/02/2021	TBC
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps 2019/2178 (INI) PECH/9/01994	Stancanelli	INI*	17/03/2021	TBC
Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
2019 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) 2020/2169(DEC) PECH/9/03898	Karleskind (Chair)	DEC	22-23/02/2021	15/03/2021
Farm to Fork strategy 2020/2260(INI) PECH/9/02601	Bilbao Barandica	INI	TBC	19/04/2021
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 2020/2273(INI) PECH/9/03084	Mato	INI	22-23/02/2021	23/03/2021
Atlantic maritime strategy – Atlantic action plan 2.0 2020/2276(INI) PECH/9/04116	Karleskind	INI	TBC	TBC
EU-UK Agreement 2020/0382(NLE) PECH/9/05018	Bellamy	NLE	Opinion in form of a letter	--
Establishing the Brexit Adjustment Reserve 2020/0380(COD) PECH/9/05067	Bellamy	COD	TBC	TBC

*Note on procedures:

COD: Ordinary legislative procedure; **INI:** Own-Initiative;

NLE: Non-legislative (consent to international agreements); **DEC:** Discharge; **BUD:** Budget

RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

REQUESTED:

- **Electronic technologies in monitoring, control and surveillance of EU fisheries - challenges and opportunities** (work shop)
- **Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture** (study)

PUBLISHED (SINCE 2016):

CFP and fisheries management

The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms and other renewable energy systems
Implementation of the current EU fisheries control system by Member States (2014-19)
Implementation and impact of the key European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) measures on the CFP
The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Italian case
The discard ban and the landing obligation in the Western- Mediterranean Sea - The Spanish case
Social and Economic impact of the penalty point system
Scientific Advice in Fisheries Management - Introduction to Stock Assessment and Maximum Sustainable Yield Ranges
Work shop on The discard ban and its impact on the Maximum Sustainable Yield objective on fisheries
The discard ban and its impact on the MSY objective - The Bay of Biscay case/The Baltic Sea/The North Sea
Options of handling choke species in view of the EU landing obligation - the Baltic plaice example
Landing obligation and choke species in mixed fisheries - North Sea/North-Western Waters/South-Western Waters
European fisheries - latest developments and future challenges

Stocks

Situation of the clam (*Tapes spp*) fisheries sector in the EU
Environmental, social and economic sustainability of the European eel management
The European eel: reproductive biology, migration and sustainable management

Structural Policy and economics

Markets of fisheries and aquaculture products: The added value chain and the role of promotion, labelling and consumer information - Small-scale fisheries case
Feasibility of measuring socio-economic and environmental impacts of recreational and semi-subsistence fisheries in the EU
Seafood Industry Integration in the EU
The management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions
Sustainable 'blue growth' in the EU and opportunities for small-scale fisheries
Regional ocean governance in Europe: the role of fisheries
"Marine Recreational and Semi-subsistence fishing - its value and its impact on fish stocks"
Training of Fishers
Work shop on the Implementation and Impact of EMFF Measures on the Common Fisheries Policy
Seafood Industry Integration in the EU 2018

External dimension

Impact of fisheries partnership agreements in the development of employment in the EU and in third countries
Consequences of Brexit for the Common Fisheries Policy
Legal framework for governance
Trade and economic related issues
Resources and fisheries

Mission briefings

Fisheries in Madeira/Japan/Guadeloupe (2017)
Fisheries in Andalusia/Finland/Ireland/Vietnam (2018)

@ You can access the studies and other documents via this [link](#)

FISHERIES NEWS IN BRIEF

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

[News - Press service](#)

EP pushes for stronger measures to promote the recovery of fishing stocks **21/01/2021**

MEPs call for a holistic approach to fisheries management with expansion of Marine Protected Areas, increased quotas for small-scale fisheries and climate change action.

In an own initiative report adopted on Thursday with 362 votes in favour, 248 against and 71 abstentions, the Parliament asks Member States to expand the network of fish stock recovery areas under the Common Fisheries Programme (CFP) and to increase the percentage of national quotas allocated to small-scale coastal fishing, which “can significantly facilitate the transition to sustainable fish stock management”.

The text welcomes the Commission’s proposal, in its 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy, to have at least 30% of European waters as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Nevertheless, it stresses that this goal should be made legally binding and that half of this area should enjoy a high level of protection, with restrictions not only for commercial fishing, but also for other activities, such as fossil fuel exploration, offshore wind farms, mass tourism or large-scale aquaculture.

MEPs urge that resources from the current and future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) should be used to establish this kind of highly protected areas.

Fishermen should be involved in the preparation and management of marine protected areas, as their acceptance of these spaces is key to succeed in protecting them. Member States should adopt legislation authorising fishermen to bring to land any waste caught at sea and introduce a system of incentives for the use of appropriate collection systems, the report adds.

Moreover, the EP stresses that rapid and effective action to fight climate change is essential for preserving marine ecosystems and

the continuity of sustainable fishing in the long term.

Background

One of the main goals of the CFP is to halt overfishing of all European stocks. According to the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), 38% of North East Atlantic stocks and 92% of Mediterranean stocks are still overexploited.

6.1 billion EUR for sustainable fisheries and safeguarding fishing communities **04/12/2020**

EU legislators reached a provisional agreement on how EU countries will be able to spend funds allocated to fisheries and aquaculture for 2021-2027

The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the period 2021-2027 amounts to 6.1 billion EUR (6.108 billion EUR in current prices). 5.3 billion EUR will be allocated for the management of fisheries, aquaculture and fishing fleets, while the remaining sum will cover measures such as scientific advice, controls and checks, market intelligence, maritime surveillance and security.

Member states will have to spend at least 15% of the money on efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In line with the Green Deal, actions under the fund will contribute to the overall budget objective to dedicate 30% of funds to climate action.

Compensation for fishermen

If fishermen’s activities cease permanently, they can be supported to scrap or decommission a vessel. In order to receive compensation, the equivalent fishing capacity is permanently removed from the EU fishing fleet register and the beneficiary must not register any fishing vessel within five years of receiving support.

If fishing activities cease temporarily, fishermen may be granted compensation for a maximum duration of 12 months per vessel or per fisherman during the programming period.

Specific needs of small-scale coastal fishing and young fishermen

Member states will need to take into account the specific needs of small-scale coastal fishing, including simplifying administrative requirements. Also, first acquisition of a fishing vessel or partial ownership (of at least 33%) can be funded if the fisherman is no more than 40 years of age and has worked for at least five years as a fisherman or has acquired the equivalent qualification. Fishermen can purchase small-scale coastal vessels (total length less than 12 meters) that have been registered for three years or vessels up to 24 meters that have been registered for five years. Small-scale vessels may also receive support to replace or modernise engines if the new or modernised engine does not have more power in kW than that of their current engine.

Improving safety, working conditions and energy efficiency

A fishing vessel that is not longer than 24 meters and older than 10 years can have its gross tonnage increased if this results in significant improvements, such as renovating accommodation and other facilities for the well-being of the crew, better on-board fire prevention and safety systems, increased energy efficiency or lower CO2 emissions.

Other key measures

- **Engines can be replaced or modernised** under strict conditions: for vessels between 12 and 24 meters and at least five years old, the new or modernised engine must not have more power in kW and a reduction of 20% CO2 emissions must be ensured; the fishing capacity withdrawn due to engine replacement or modernisation cannot be replaced.

- Focus on **outermost regions**: member states will have to prepare an action plan for each of their outermost regions; specific budget allocations are foreseen.

- Support may also be granted for **storage of fisheries products** in exceptional events generating a significant disruption of markets.

Next steps

Parliament and Council are now expected to endorse the agreement. The provisions of the regulation will then apply as of 1 January 2021.

Background

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund proposal was published by the Commission in June 2018 and refers to the Multiannual

Financial Framework for 2021-2027. The previous EMFF budget covering the years 2014 to 2020 amounted to 6.4 billion EUR.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

News - Press service

EU and Greenland reach agreement on new fisheries partnership

08/01/2021

On 8 January 2021, the EU and Greenland concluded negotiations for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and a new Protocol that will strengthen their cooperation in the fisheries sector for the next four years with the possibility of a two-year extension.

The agreement is a new important milestone in the long-standing bilateral cooperation between the EU and Greenland in fisheries and renews their commitment in promoting a sustainable use of marine resources. This is the only mixed Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) in the North Atlantic, and the third most important agreement in place for the EU in financial terms. It will allow the EU fleet (12 large-scale industrial trawlers) to continue fishing in Greenland waters for a duration of 4+2 years while continuing to contribute to the development of the fisheries sector in Greenland.

Fishing opportunities have been negotiated for the same species as in the current protocol (Cod, Redfish, Greenland Halibut, Northern Prawn, Capelin and Grenadier). Fishing opportunities for Mackerel have also been included in the agreement at a 0 TAC level. Any quota of Mackerel transferred by Greenland in the future will be dependent on Greenland signing the Coastal States Sharing Arrangement on the management of mackerel with the EU. The reference prices have also been updated, using a methodology agreed between both parties and taking into account current market prices. Based on the fishing opportunities and the newly negotiated reference prices, the EU will provide Greenland with an annual financial contribution of €16 500 000. A significant part

of this contribution, €2 900 000 per year, is specifically earmarked to promote the development of the fisheries sector in Greenland. For the whole duration of the protocol, the estimated value amounts to €99 000 000. Additionally EU ship-owners will pay license fees for the fishing opportunities.

This new SFPFA represents an important step forward in the partnership between the EU and Greenland, which dates back to 1985. The new agreement upholds the principles of the common fisheries policy such as transparency, governance of fishing activities, non-discrimination, respect of the scientific advice and scientific cooperation on data collection and analysis. It complies with Greenland's legislation and the management and scientific measures taken in the context of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Through the new SFPFA, cooperation on monitoring, control and surveillance on fishing activities will be further reinforced.

Each Party will now initiate the necessary legislative procedures for the signature and conclusion of the new agreement and its implementing protocol.

EU report projects resilience of fishing fleet during COVID-19 pandemic 07/01/2021

The 2020 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet projects that in 2020, the EU fleet remained profitable overall, despite the effects of COVID-19 on the fleet and fish markets. More sustainable fishing and lower fuel costs have helped to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

In 2018, the EU fleet registered a net profit of €800 million. This represents significant progress, considering that the EU fleet was barely breaking even in 2008. The continued strong performance was the result of a higher average of fish prices, low fuel prices, and the improved status of some important stocks. This trend continued into 2019.

At the same time, the report shows differences in performance across fleet categories and fishing regions. The large-scale and distant-water fleet segments registered better economic performance than the small-scale coastal fleet segments. Furthermore, the fleet segments operating in the North Eastern Atlantic, where most fished stocks are managed at sustainable levels, registered higher economic performance than the fleet segments operating in the Mediterranean, where numerous stocks still face overfishing or overexploitation problems.

However, the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak has interrupted the positive trends seen in recent years. Projections suggests that in 2020 the economic performance of the EU fleets has declined, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting decline in demand and disruptions in the supply chain. Projections indicate decreases of 17% in landed value, 19% in employment and 29% in net profits compared to 2019.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the latest information available on the structure and economic performance of EU Member State fishing fleets. It covers the period 2008 to 2020 and includes information on the EU fleet's fishing capacity, effort, employment, landings, income and costs. The latest year of reported data by Member States is 2018, with preliminary 2019 data. Therefore, the now-cast performance estimates provided for 2019 and 2020 are projections only and by no means can be considered as forecasts.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, projections show that the EU fleet would end 2020 with a reasonable level of profitability. This indicates a strong resilience of the EU fleet, which is the result of the efforts made by the sector in previous years to achieve the maximum sustainability yield (MSY) objective set by the common fisheries policy (CFP), in conjunction with low fuel prices. Furthermore, the report shows that the economic performance and salaries of EU fishermen and women are improving where fleets depend on stocks that are targeted sustainably and tend to stagnate where fleets depend on stocks that remain overfished or overexploited.

The Annual Economic Reports on the EU Fishing Fleet provide an overview of the

structure and economic performance of the 22 coastal EU Member State fishing fleets. It is the result of combined work by economic experts from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee of Fisheries (STECF) and the European Commission.

More information

[The 2020 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet](#)

Information about access of EU fishing vessels to the UK waters as of 1 January 2021

31/12/2020

The United Kingdom and the European Union have agreed to a Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), applicable on a provisional basis from 1 January 2021. The [text of the agreement](#) and a [detailed list of questions and answers, including on fisheries](#) have been published.

As of 1 January 2021, the **United Kingdom** and the EU will cooperate under the TCA also in the domain of fisheries (TCA Heading Five: Fisheries). Both Parties will exercise the coastal state rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the living marine resources in their waters.

As part of the TCA, and during a transition period until 30 June 2026, each of the Parties have agreed to grant to vessels of the other Party full access to its waters to fish specified TAC and non-quota stocks in the respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs, 12-200 nautical miles); and in a specified part of the waters of the Parties between six and twelve nautical miles (Annex FISH.4, Article 2); and to the so-called Crown dependencies of the UK (Article FISH.10), under the conditions as referred to in this Annex.

In absence of TACs agreed for 2021 between the EU and the UK for the jointly managed and shared fish stocks, the EU Council of Fisheries Ministers has agreed temporary fishing opportunities during on 17 December.

Regarding fisheries, the UK and European Union authorities seek to ensure a smooth transition on 1 January, including on the

granting of access to each Party's waters, for vessels of the other Party.

The European Commission has made significant progress since the TCA was agreed between Parties to ensure with the UK authorities as much as possible continuity of fishing activities in UK waters from 1 January (and on our side, for UK vessels to EU waters). Both Parties are informed of the lists of vessels of the other Party, for which authorisations and licences to fish in respective waters are requested. [Read more](#)

Euronews OCEAN Season 2 episode 11 – sustainable aquaculture

22/12/2020

As the European Commission prepares its new guidelines on sustainable aquaculture to be released in February, this episode of Ocean tells the success stories of two very different family-run aquaculture companies — one farming organic mussels in an isolated area of the Atlantic coast of Ireland, another growing trout at a popular touristic destination in landlocked Hungary.

For decades, both were improving their production methods to offer fresh, local and healthy seafood to consumers while reducing their environmental impact, expanding production and overcoming obstacles — from negative consumer perception of aquaculture products to the ongoing crisis in Europe's restaurant sector.

Tune in to Euronews from 22 December @ 20:50 CET – on any platform.

OCEAN is a Euronews magazine in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE). Season 2 features monthly 8-minute videos where we highlight fascinating projects and developments related to the ocean and coastal communities.

The first season featured episodes on marine protected areas, small-scale fisheries, ocean energy, aquaculture, IUU fishing, sustainable fisheries and more. Missed one? [Check them out on Euronews website!](#) You will also find some nice extras about these topics.

Feel free to share on social media, tagging [@EU_MARE](#) and [@euronews](#) and using the hashtag [#oceanEU](#).

For the love of nature: EU supports a new fish farming business in Austrian mountains

21/12/2020

Martin Traxler took a life-changing decision. For the love of nature, he left his previous managerial job in Vienna to start a fish farm in the mountains of Styria, Austria. Learning aquaculture by self-study and through exchange of experiences with other fish farmers, Martin, with the support of his wife Elke, has built an enterprise that covers the entire value chain: from rearing to marketing and serving products at his restaurant on-site. EU-funding has helped turning his vision for a different life into a successful reality.

After a law degree, Martin worked at the Austrian Chamber of Pharmacists, and then as managing director of a publishing house, which he turned into a strong and successful business. In 2015 though, at the peak of his career, he went for a radical change: he announced his departure from his previous job to start a fish farm.

Together with his wife, Martin decided to take advantage of their family holiday house in the Styrian mountains to implant the fish farm. Local conditions were ideal: The altitude (900m above sea level) and the Pretulbach stream flowing through the property, with a steady supply of clean cold water, made the site perfect for a small fish farm. The Traxlers started with rearing brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) and later added Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*). The name of the Char family is Saibling in German. Thus, in 2016, the Pretul Saibling company was born.

While the company bought the first batch of young fish from other farms, it now has breeding stocks of both trout and char, making it self-sufficient. The production capacity is 3 tonnes/year. No medicines are used and the farm meets the criteria for organic production, though it is not yet certified as such. The company is family based, with the Traxlers

working full time and two supporting part-time employees.

Pretul Saibling not only rears the fish, but also processes them and markets them through its website. The char is offered as whole fish, fillets, hot-smoked, cold-smoked, and in soups, spreads and pâtés. Customers are usually inhabitants of the surrounding area and tourists. As a secondary source of income, the Traxlers also opened a restaurant, which seats around 20 people inside and another 20 outside.

The enthusiasm and hard work of the Traxler family allowed them to bring a high-quality regional product to market and to convince visiting customers of the quality of their local fish. Moreover, they have generated local employment and added economic new economic activity in the region. Given the high initial investment for a solo entrepreneur, the EU-funding was instrumental for the Traxlers to take a life-changing decision, motivated by the love of living in nature.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the December [Euronews Ocean](#) episode on sustainable aquaculture

Keep informed about the project:

Website: www.pretulsaibling.at

Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/menschmensch/episodes/Martin-Traxler-e9vpb5> (in German)

EU helps protecting seabirds in Portugal

21/12/2021

There has always been a symbiotic relationship between seabirds and fishermen. In a time before technology took over, birds were guiding fishing boats to the fish schools at sea, and today, they still crowd around trawlers. Unfortunately, many times seabirds attracted to fishing boats are accidentally caught on hooks or in nets and end up drowning.

Each year, around 200,000 birds are accidentally killed at sea in European waters alone, making it one of the main threats to seabird life. Gillnets, longlines and seines are among the gears with the greatest impact on seabirds. The extinction of the common murre,

the sea bird symbol of the [Berlenga](#) Nature Reserve off the Portuguese Atlantic coast, is largely due to accidental catches in gillnets.

While there are existing measures to prevent accidental catching of seabirds in nets and lines, the success of these measures will depend on the geographic location, the behavior of the seabirds and even the fishermen's way of operating.

Funded by the EU, the MedAves project aims to understand the interaction of seabirds and fishing activity in a given geographical area and on adapting and implementing best practices to prevent accidental catching. The project is concentrated around two innovative methods. One method, developed by the company FishTek, uses a small robust device with LED lights, which can be attached to fishing nets. Gillnets are practically invisible to birds under water, but the green LED lights signal their presence, thus helping birds to avoid them. The lights are attached to the mother line of the net for every 10 meters and triggered by the salinity of the seawater, thus extending battery life.

The other method, created by a Portuguese bird protection NGO, SPEA (Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves), mimics a bird of prey - known as the 'scary bird device' - which scares away seabirds from the fishing zone. Within the framework of the project, the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) in [Oeste](#) and SPEA worked with a group of fishers to adapt and implement these devices in practice. They did this alongside raising the awareness of good practices such as what to do if a bird gets entangled in a fishing net.

The Oeste FLAG worked as an intermediary between the NGO and the fishing community, to enable better communication and cooperation. The 'scarybird device' was tested during 182 fishing trips; 48 fishing trips with a fishing observer onboard; and 134 fishing trips monitored by the boats' captain. Those tests have revealed which techniques are best suited to the specific fishing practices and gears, and can contribute significantly to the conservation of sea birds in Berlenga. Moreover, an awareness campaign connected to the MedAves project resulted in around 60 fishers joining the project.

The EU funding of MedAves has contributed in protecting marine life and environment while spreading good fishing practices. The process of testing and adapting the seabird protection methods has the potential to be rolled out at national level throughout Portugal, and could well be replicated by FLAGs in other Member States.

Did you like this story?

Check out the December [Euronews Ocean](#) episode on sustainable aquaculture

Keep informed about the project:

[Medavespesca website](#)

[Images and videos](#) (in Portuguese)

Circular economy: From seafood waste to sustainable packaging

21/12/2020

Quality packaging is essential to the shelf life of seafood products. Today, the bulk of packaging is made from single-use plastics, thus representing a big source of pollution. The food processing industry is therefore looking for sustainable alternatives, and the EU-funded FISH4FISH project is part of the solution.

The seafood processing industry needs to improve marketability and to extend the shelf-life of fresh fish, caught or farmed. The traditional solution has been plastics. At the same time, the industry produces over 10,000 tons/year of shellfish waste, which largely go to, well, waste. But shellfish waste, specifically crustacean shells and squid feathers, is rich in chitin, the material from which valuable packaging compounds can be produced.

The EU-funded FISH4FISH project closes the circle between waste and consumption. FISH4FISH has achieved a breakthrough developing a novel active polymeric material based on chitin from crustaceans combined with lignin waste. Such material combines sustainability, safety, antioxidant and antimicrobial effect, UV-shielding and improved mechanical properties, easy biodegradability and compostability. It is a technically and economically viable material. The project objective is the production of film and trays prototypes for the fish packaging

sector. Such packaging enhances shelf-life and, once it has been used, it could be processed completely in a home composting system and used as fertilizer and microbial preservatives for plants.

FISH4FISH is set up by a consortium of six Spanish and Italian partners from both the academic world and business. While food packaging is the primary objective of FISH4FISH, the bio-based polymers produced are potentially exploitable for an extremely wide range of other industries.

The EU's funding to the FISH4FISH project is a very tangible contribution to Europe's circular and blue economy. It has helped ensuring that renewable resources are exploited in a sustainable manner, promoting bio-based, environmentally friendly and beneficial technologies, which create high-performing materials for a wide range of applications. The innovative materials add new value to the fish-waste industry whilst enhancing the competitiveness of the fish-processing industry. Thanks to the prolongation of the storage time and the significant reduction in food waste, it also benefits the food retailer sector. The project boosts the bio-based sector, introducing a material, which could tackle an environmental problem, and it actively contributes to the reduction of plastic pollution in the sea.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the December [Euronews Ocean](#) episode on sustainable aquaculture

Keep informed about the project:

[FISH4FISH website](#)

[Video on FISH4FISH](#)

YouTube: [FISH4FISH EMFF Project](#)

Facebook: [Fish4Fish Project EU-Emff- Blue Economy](#)

Twitter: [fish4fishP](#)

EU funding for the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors: How have the Member States used it?
21/12/2020

The latest implementation report of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is now available. It highlights the most important achievements supported by

the EMFF across the EU. The report is based on data provided by the Member States, reflecting the state of implementation at the end of 2019. The first data reflecting the impacts of Covid-19 are due to be reported by the Member States at the end of April 2021 and will feature in the next report.

The [report](#) shows that by the end of 2019, €3.21 billion of EMFF support was committed to operations in the Member States. This corresponds to 55.8% of the €5.69 billion EMFF funding available to the Member States. €1.4 billion of the support committed contributes to the objective of enhancing the competitiveness of Small to Medium sized Enterprises, while €1.3 billion (i.e. 40% of support committed so far) is dedicated to preserving and protecting the environment. The remaining €0.5 billion was committed to a variety of topics, which notably include promoting quality employment and labour mobility.

The report analyses the breakdown of these figures according to key policy objectives and topics such as climate, biodiversity, and the landing obligation. Analysis is provided at EU level, by Member State and specifically for support targeted at the small-scale coastal fisheries sector.

The report shows that most of the EMFF funding was committed towards the objectives of ensuring economically viable and competitive fishing and processing industries (€899 million). Development of sustainable aquaculture activities (€588 million) and supporting the achievement of the maximum sustainable yield (€572 million) were also key funding targets.

In terms of activities, data collection on fisheries and aquaculture activities, which helps improve stock assessments and understanding of the state of these sectors, including socio-economic conditions, received the largest amount of support (€433.9 million). Control (€375.8 million) and productive investments in aquaculture (€348 million) also received significant support.

The EMFF is one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds. This detailed report provides critical input for

evaluating policy implementation and tailoring future policy decisions.

More information

[EMFF implementation report 2019](#)

[European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#)

Black Sea countries: regional cooperation on blue economy will help “build back better” after COVID-19 pandemic

21/12/2020

At their 11 December ministerial meeting, in the presence of Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, Black Sea countries agreed to strengthen regional cooperation on the blue economy. This cooperation, established in 2019 under the so-called common maritime agenda, should boost synergies across countries and sectors and will benefit the entire region.

Under Bulgarian coordination, the seven Black Sea countries (Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine) met for the first time since the adoption of their common maritime agenda in 2019. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily affected most blue economy sectors in the region, including coastal tourism, shipbuilding, fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport and port activities. The countries agreed that the common maritime agenda provides the right framework for the Black Sea region to ‘*build back better*’ based on its blue economy potential, the opportunities of digitalisation and, above all, a smart and sustainable approach.

The Commission informed participants about opportunities for financial support from the EU 2021-2027 long-term budget and Next Generation EU, opening up a massive €1.8 trillion package – the largest one ever financed. It includes the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument with a budget of €98.4 billion.

Meanwhile, the countries of the region and the European Commission are working together to make sure that the shared goals under the common maritime agenda are reflected in future national and regional programmes, including the EU co-funded ones, while

coordinating with other donors to complement the investments opportunities.

More information

[Black Sea Assistance Mechanism](#)

[Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Centre \(BSVKC\)](#)

Technical measures regulation: Your opinion counts – participate in the stakeholder consultation (deadline 15/02/2021)

21/12/2020

In August 2019, a new technical measures regulation entered into force. This important regulation contains rules on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems. A stakeholder consultation on the effectiveness and the impact of the regulation is underway until 15 February 2021.

Technical measures include specifications for fishing gears and mesh sizes, closed areas and seasons, and measures to minimize the impact of fishing on the marine ecosystem and environment.

As required by the regulation, the Commission will prepare a report to assess the extent to which technical measures, both at regional and Union level, are contributing to achieving the objectives and reaching the targets set out in the regulation.

The report will be prepared with information provided by the Member States, relevant advisory councils and scientific bodies ([STECF](#), [ICES](#)). Given the overall importance of the regulation for all stakeholders, the European Commission has also launched an online [stakeholder consultation on technical measures regulation](#) (fisheries) on 10 December 2020.

All stakeholders, including the fishing industry, non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific, social and economic partners and interested citizens are invited to take part and express their views on the implementation of the technical measures regulation by 15 February 2021.

More information

[Technical measures regulation](#)

New EUMOFA report: a deep-dive into the blue bioeconomy

18/12/2020

From multi-trophic aquaculture over fish rest raw material to cell-plant technology and the breeding of cells through mariculture, the blue bioeconomy is a spawning ground for cutting-edge innovation in Europe. The latest EUMOFA report dives into three sub-sectors and discovers how they are quickly claiming their place in the sustainable economy, and what potential they still hold for the future. The 2020 edition of EUMOFA's "Blue Bioeconomy. Situation Report and Perspective" focuses on three topics critical to the future of the sector:

- Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA);
- the use of fish rest raw material (RRM) in Denmark;
- cell-plant technology and cellular mariculture.

Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture: an ecosystem on its own

Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) is called for pilot projects to promote its practice.

However, despite its proven environmental and economic benefits, adoption by mainstream producers is slow. More commercial-scale evidence is likely needed to convince the industry.

Reusing fish waste in Denmark

The second section of the report is a case study from Denmark about the use of fish rest raw material (RRM). This is essentially all the useful material removed from fish and seafood when preparing it for food use.

Denmark is a big seafood nation and that includes massive volumes of fish rests: more than 500,000 tonnes in 2019. The case study found that RRM is mainly used for fishmeal and fish oil, animal feed, biogas, and indirect human consumption. It is most lucrative when utilised for food additives or supplements, such as Omega-3 capsules.

Seafood from cells, not plants or animals

The final part of the report deals with cellular mariculture, an emerging technology whereby marine products are produced from cell cultures rather than from whole plants or animals. Such systems are a potential renewable source of valuable compounds, flavours, fragrances and colorants, which cannot be produced by microbial cells or chemical synthesis.

Contrary to animal-based seafood, cell-based seafood can combine developments in biomedical engineering with modern aquaculture techniques, making it a versatile and promising technology altogether.

This is EUMOFA's second situation report in the Blue Bioeconomy series. A fascinating read for those interested in sustainable innovation through renewable aquatic biological resources. Available in [English](#) only.

Webinar on recreational fisheries monitoring and control

15/12/2020

A webinar on "Recreational fisheries monitoring and control" gathered representatives from the European Commission, European Parliament, EU Member States, Advisory Councils and members of the scientific community.

In November 2019, at the request of the EP, the Commission launched a pilot project to develop and test a control scheme for recreational catches of sea bass. The project saw the development of an IT tool, "Fishfriender", enabling recreational fishers to quickly register their daily catches and transmit the data to an EU web-based platform. The purpose of webinar was to share the results of the pilot project and to present other existing IT tools designed to improve the effectiveness of recreational fisheries control and monitoring. In addition, a number of other presentations outlined the current political, biological and socioeconomic context of recreational fisheries.

The ensuing discussions will feed into the ongoing revision of the European Commission's proposal for new provisions on traceability

within the EU control regulation, currently under discussion by the co-legislators. The presentations are available below. A meeting report will be published on this webpage in January 2021.

For more information:

[Control Regulation \(EC\) 1224/2009](#)

[Proposal of new control regulation](#)

[The EU's fisheries control system](#)

[Report: Control scheme for recreational catches of seabass \(Pilot project\)](#)

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

[2020-12-04-webinar-C-Skov-Denmark-IT-catch-reporting-tool.pdf](#)

[2020-12-04-webinar-EAA-EFTTA.pdf](#)

[2020-12-04-webinar-H-Strehlow-v2.pdf](#)

[2020-12-04-webinar-M-lozano-Spain.pdf](#)

[2020-12-04-webinar-Y-Kyriacou.pdf](#)

[2020-12-04-webinar-o-McIntyre.pdf](#)

Setting the Course for a Sustainable Blue Planet – EU International Ocean Governance

14/12/2020

On 14-16 December 2020 the European Commission and the European External Action Service invite stakeholders worldwide to discuss ocean challenges and to define action-oriented solutions towards global sustainability objectives

The second virtual International Ocean Governance Forum will take stock and discuss the contributions and proposals made during the first round of webinars and workshops of April and July 2020, and during the online consultation from July to October.

The first day consists of a high-level event, followed by two days of working groups. Forum recommendations cover priority areas such as climate change, biodiversity, blue economy and key drivers for transition including financing, rules and implementation, ocean knowledge and cross-sector cooperation.

Participants will discuss how to best transform these ambitions into actions for the European Commission and the External Action Service in 2021.

La pêche durable : Résultats de la deuxième Commission mixte dans le cadre de l'accord de pêche entre l'UE et le Maroc

12/12/2020

La deuxième Commission mixte de l'Accord de partenariat dans le domaine de la pêche durable entre l'Union européenne et le Royaume du Maroc s'est réunie les 8 et 9 décembre 2020.

L'actuel Accord de Partenariat dans le Domaine de la Pêche Durable (APPD), et son protocole de mise en œuvre, sont entrés en vigueur le 18 juillet 2019. Ce nouvel accord crée un cadre de gouvernance stratégique avec le Maroc, partenaire clé de l'Union européenne dans le cadre de la politique de voisinage. Il contribue à la préservation des ressources maritimes et au développement économique et social des populations vivant dans les zones concernées par l'accord.

Au cours de cette Commission mixte, les parties ont passé en revue l'activité et l'utilisation des possibilités de pêche au terme de la première année du protocole. Elles ont conclu à une bonne utilisation de l'accord, en particulier pour la pêche des petits pélagiques par les chalutiers industriels, estimée à environ 95% des possibilités de pêche pour l'année 2020.

Les parties ont également examiné l'état d'avancement des projets mis en œuvre dans le cadre de l'appui de l'Union européenne au développement et à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie marocaine de développement du secteur de la pêche, notamment dans la promotion de domaines tels que l'aquaculture, la pêche artisanale et la recherche halieutique. Elles se sont félicitées de la qualité du travail réalisé dans le cadre du suivi, par les deux parties, de l'utilisation de cet appui et de l'avancement des projets à l'issue de la première année de protocole, dans un contexte difficile marqué par la pandémie du COVID 19. En effet, plus de 98% des actions programmées pour la première année de protocole ont été réalisées pour un montant d'environ 18,4 millions d'euros, malgré les contraintes liées à la crise sanitaire.

La Commission mixte a également examiné la répartition géographique et sociale de la

contrepartie financière afin de veiller à ce que l'accord profite aux territoires concernés, proportionnellement à l'activité de pêche des navires européens.

Les parties ont, enfin, examiné les aspects scientifiques de l'accord, dans un souci de préservation des ressources halieutiques, et se sont accordées pour poursuivre les travaux scientifiques conjoints en ce sens. [Lire la suite](#)

IUU fishing: Commissioner Sinkevičius promotes “zero tolerance”

10/12/2020

On Friday 11 December, Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, co-hosted an event to mark the 10th anniversary of the “IUU Regulation”. The regulation aims to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

IUU fishing poses a global challenge to the sustainability of fish stocks, but also to the livelihoods of coastal communities. IUU fishing is estimated at 11–26 million tonnes of fish every year, representing an annual price tag of €9–21 billion.

Ending of the IUU is part of UN Sustainable Development Goals 14, and the EU has been leading this global fight against since many years. In 2010, the EU adopted the IUU Regulation to strengthen international cooperation and help driving fisheries reform globally. The regulation states that all countries, whether EU-countries or non-EU countries, must fulfil their obligations under the international law of the sea as flag, port, coastal or market states. It is applicable to all vessels engaged in the commercial exploitation of fishery resources and to all EU nationals involved in fishing activities under any flag. Based on this principle, the European Commission is conducting an ambitious programme of bilateral dialogues with non-EU countries, and managing a comprehensive system of catch certification, which aims at ensuring that products stemming from IUU fishing do not enter the EU market. [Read more](#)

EU stresses the need for blue post-COVID-19 recovery strategies at UN General Assembly

09/12/2020

On 8 December, the UN General Assembly debated two resolutions on Oceans and Law of the Seas and on Sustainable Fisheries.

In this context, the European Union stressed that to in addressing the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, recovery strategies should aim at keeping oceans healthy and productive, fighting climate change, halting biodiversity loss, as well as tackling hunger and poverty. These should not be seen as “either or” options, as ensuring resilience of the society, economies as well as the environment to future shocks can only be achieved by tackling these challenges.

For the EU, in line with the principles of its Green Deal, the best way forward to recover from this pandemic is by rebuilding greener and bluer. This requires decision-making on the basis of the best available science. In this respect, the EU welcomes the outcomes of the Second World Ocean Assessment under the UN Regular Process and looks forward to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). The EU encourages participation in this Decade, which will provide the science we need for the future we want.

The European Union recognises the important role seafarers and fishers play in providing the global community with goods, including the medicines and equipment used to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as food. It remains concerned with the plight of many seafarers and fishers who have been stranded on board of their ships, as also pointed out by the UN Secretary General. In this regard, the EU welcomes the recent consensual adoption by the Assembly of a Resolution on “International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains”.

In line with the objectives of its Common Fisheries Policy, the European Union remains committed to achieving sustainable fisheries. Harmful subsidies which contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and illegal,

unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing are one of the main impediments to achieving sustainability, therefore the EU hopes that the long-standing WTO negotiations in this regard can be concluded as soon as possible, in line with SDG 14.6, and remains fully committed to this end.

The EU recalls that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) remains the overarching legal framework for ocean governance. The EU continues to encourage all UN States to ratify it to achieve universal participation and calls on States to abide by the fundamental principles and rules of the law of the sea and to refrain from any actions undermining regional stability and security. In addition, the EU considers that the negotiations of the new implementing agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction should be finalised as soon as possible, ideally already next year, to enhance the framework for marine biodiversity in these areas.

EU lifts Kiribati's "yellow card" following reforms of its fisheries control system

4/12/2020

The European Commission is lifting the yellow card to Kiribati after four and half years of close cooperation. The "yellow card" is an official warning issued by the European Union to trading partners falling short of tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. By lifting the card, the European Commission recognises the important progress of Kiribati in addressing the shortcomings in its fisheries governance.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the most serious threats to the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources, jeopardising the very foundation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the EU's international efforts to promote better ocean governance. IUU fishing also represents a major hazard to the marine environment, the sustainability of fish stocks and marine biodiversity. Sustainable fisheries in Europe and across the world contribute to achieving

the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy for the marine environment.

Under the [Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing \(IUU\) Regulation](#), the European Commission warned Kiribati in April 2016 that they were not doing enough against IUU fishing. Since then, the country embarked on a series of reforms to bring their fisheries control legislation in line with international law, and is now equipped to deal with illegal fishing effectively. In close cooperation with the European Commission, Kiribati has reviewed its fisheries legal framework and established a sanctioning system acting as a strong deterrent. Furthermore, traceability has been improved throughout the supply chain by strengthening the controls at ports and introducing a new system of catch certification.

Kiribati is an archipelagic nation with one of the most productive tuna fishing grounds in the Pacific, and one of its main sources of income is the revenue collected by giving access to its waters to distant fishing nations. In this regard, Kiribati has improved cooperation with some of the flag states that operate in its waters and will continue working towards this objective.

[Read more](#)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

25 January 2021

[News - Press service](#)

Agreement on fishing opportunities in the Atlantic, North Sea, Mediterranean and Black Sea for 2021

17/12/2020

Following a two-day intense negotiation, ministers reached an agreement on the catch limits for over 200 commercial fish stocks in the Atlantic, the North Sea, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea for 2021 and, in the case of deep-sea species, for 2021 and 2022. More than 100 of these stocks in the Atlantic and North Sea have been co-managed with the

UK during the last decades; given the ongoing EU-UK negotiations on their future relationship, ministers agreed to set provisional quotas for the fish stocks shared with the UK. The provisional quotas are designed to ensure the continuation of sustainable fishing in the concerned areas until consultations with the UK are concluded. A similar approach was agreed for the stocks co-managed with Norway.

The provisional quotas include a proportionate roll-over of the existing 2020 fishing opportunities for the first three months of 2021 (applying a 25% ratio of the total existing Union quota). Ministers agreed on certain exceptions to this approach based on seasonality (certain stocks are mainly fished at the beginning of the year e.g. mackerel and blue whiting) and scientific advice (drastic cuts for some stocks e.g. northern prawn).

To safeguard the stocks, ministers agreed to reduce catch limits for, inter alia, plaice in Kattegat, Norway lobster in Skagerrak, hake and pollack in the Southern part of the Atlantic and several deep-sea species, including one stock of roundnose grenadier and black scabbardfish.

Regarding the fishing opportunities in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, ministers agreed to further reduce demersal fishing efforts in western Mediterranean by 7.5% with a view to sustaining fish stocks in the area. This reduction is part of the commitment for an overall and gradual reduction of up to 40% until the beginning of 2025 to progressively reach maximum sustainable yield for all stocks concerned in these highly mixed fisheries.

- [Total allowable catches in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2021](#)
- [Total allowable catches for deep sea species in 2021 and 2022](#)

Background

The Council agreement confirmed to a large extent the initial Commission proposals, which established fishing opportunities mainly in the form of yearly total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas by fish stocks in the different fishing zones. TACs and quotas concern stocks that the EU manages either autonomously or jointly with third countries, for instance with Norway and the UK mainly in the North Sea,

Celtic Sea and the Skagerrak, or through agreements reached in the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). The proposal for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea includes fishing effort and other technical provisions.

The setting of TACs and quotas is an annual, and in the case of deep-sea species a biennial, management exercise decided upon by the Council in accordance with Article 43(3) of the TFEU.

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
SWWAC	25/01/2021	video conference	FG on Bay of Biscay sardine
NSAC	26/01/2021	virtual	ExCom
MAC	27/01/2021	virtual	WG3
MAC	28/01/2021	virtual	WG1
MAC	29/01/2021	virtual	WG2
BSAC	29/01/2021	virtual	ExCom
AAC	02/02/2021	tbc	WG
AAC	04/02/2021	tbc	ExCom
NSAC	11/02/2021	virtual	Demersal WG
MEDAC	16/02/2021	video conference	WG1, WG5
MEDAC	17/02/2021	video conference	FG equal opportunities, FG WestMed
MEDAC	18/02/2021	video conference	GA

Abbreviations:

- NWW AC: North Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- PEL AC: Pelagic Advisory Council ([link](#))
- NS AC: North Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MED AC: Advisory Council for the Mediterranean ([link](#))
- SWW AC: South Western Waters Advisory Council ([link](#))
- LD AC: Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BS AC: Baltic Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- AAC: Aquaculture Advisory Council ([link](#))
- MAC: Market Advisory Council ([link](#))
- BIS AC: Black Sea Advisory Council ([link](#))
- CC RUP: Outermost Regions Advisory Council
- **GA**: General Assembly, **ExCom**: Executive Committee, **WG**: Working Group, **FG**: Focus Group

MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
2021			
21 January – 1 February	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)	Annual meeting	Virtual
15-16 February	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	Coordination meeting on new strategic cycle	Algiers, Algeria
18-25 February	North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)	Annual meeting	Sapporo, Japan
1-5 February	FAO	FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI)	Virtual
1-6 March	NAFO inter-sessional – Shrimp 3M allocation	Likely virtual, dates not yet confirmed	Virtual
8-12 March	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Special meeting of the Commission	Virtual
8-12 March	NASCO	Intersessional meeting of the West Greenland Commission	Virtual
22-25 March	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Intersessional meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	Virtual
18-21 May	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	14 TH Session of the Compliance Committee	Larnaca, Cyprus
30 May-11 June	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Annual meeting and associated meetings	TBD
31 April-4 June	FAO/EU	Third Meeting of the Parties to the Port State Measures Agreement	VIRTUAL
1-5 June	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)	Annual meeting	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
9-10 June	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	High-level meeting on the new strategic cycle, MedFish4Ever initiatives and post-Covid response	Greece
14 -18 June	UN	United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Ocean and the Law of the Sea – twenty-first meeting	New York
21 – 25 June	UN	Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – thirty-first meeting	New York

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

COUNTRY		EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) 2021		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2020-2021		LEGAL PROCESS			LATEST INFORMATION (last JCM, last negotiation round, etc.)
			Date	Location	Date	Location	Estimated date of adoption of proposal for negotiating mandate by the Commission	Estimated date of adoption of negotiating mandate by Council	Estimated date of adoption of Council Decision on signing and provisional application	
MIXED AGREEMENTS	Mauritania	15 November 2021 (additional 1-year extension)			February 2021	TBD	/	Adopted on 8 July 2019		The first round of negotiation took place from 2 to 4 September 2019 in Brussels, during which a 1-year extension of the current protocol was agreed. This extension was signed on 13 November 2019 and applies provisionally from 16 November 2019. EP gave its consent to the conclusion of the extension on 13 May 2020. The second round took place in November 2019 in Nouakchott, the third one in December 2019 (Brussels) and the fourth one in February 2020 (Nouakchott). During the fifth round in July 2020 (videoconference), another 1-year extension of the current protocol was agreed. The last JCM took place in December 2020.
	Morocco	17 July 2023	Q3 2021		/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place in December 2020.
	Senegal	17 November 2024	20-21 January 2021	VC	/	/	/	/	/	
	The Gambia	30 July 2025	Q4 2021		/	/	/	/	/	
	Guinea Bissau	14 June 2024	Q1 2021		/	/	/	/	/	The first JCM took place in October 2019 in Brussels.
	Greenland	31 December 2020 - EXPIRED			Finalised in January 2021		/	Adopted on 9 December 2019		The first round of negotiations took place from 15 to 17 January 2020 in Copenhagen. The second round took place from 4 to 6 March 2020 in Brussels. The third round took place from 9 to 10 June 2020 (videoconference). The fourth round of negotiations was suspended on 9 July 2020. A new Agreement and Protocol was initialised on 11 January 2021. The Commission is currently working on the adoption of its proposals related to the EU procedure on the conclusion of the new SFPA and protocol.

WEST AFRICA	Cape-Verde	19 May 2024	Q1 2021	TBD	/	/	/	/	/	
	Côte d'Ivoire	31 July 2024			/	/	/	/	/	
	Gabon	23 July 2016 - EXPIRED			13-14 January 2021 - possibly followed by another session on 27-29 January in Libreville	VC	/	Adopted on 22 October 2015		Negotiations resumed in June 2020 (4th round).
	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 3 March 2017		The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016.
	Liberia	8 December 2020 - EXPIRED			/	/	Adopted on 25 September 2020			The Protocol expired in December 2020. IUU Yellow card.
	Equatorial Guinea	N/A					/	/	/	The ex-ante evaluation was approved at the end of November 2016.
	São Tomé and Príncipe	18 December 2024			/	/	/	/	/	The last JCM took place in November 2020.
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	DENOUNCED	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	The termination of the SFPA with Comoros has been notified to the Government of Comoros on 3 July 2018.
	Madagascar	31 December 2018 - EXPIRED			TBD		/	Adopted on 4 June 2018		The evaluation study has been concluded (March 2018). The first round of negotiations took place from 24 to 27 July 2018 in Brussels (together with a JCM). The second round took place in October 2018, while the third one took place from 23 to 25 September 2019. The fourth round scheduled from 20 to 22 January 2020 in Brussels has been postponed at the request of Madagascar. High-level meeting took place in December 2020 to re-launch the negotiations.
	Mauritius	7 December 2021	April/May 2021		May/June 2021	/	/	/	/	
	Mozambique	31 January 2015 - EXPIRED					/	Adopted on 12 June 2014		Negotiations for a new protocol suspended until further notice to enable further reflection by both Parties to narrow divergences. The last JCM took place in February 2016.

INDIAN OCEAN	Seychelles	23 February 2026	Q1 2021		/	/	/	/	/	Negotiations concluded in October 2019 with the initialling of the new SFPA and protocol. Both agreement and protocol were signed on 24 February 2020 and applied provisionally until the EP consent in November 2020.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	5 June 2020 - EXPIRED			Q1 2021	TBD	/	Adopted on 24 October 2019		The last JCM took place in Brussels on 1 March 2019. No financial implications for the EU, as this agreement allows access of Seychelles flagged vessels to Mayotte's waters under EU jurisdiction. The first round of negotiations took place from 14 to 16 January 2020 in Mamoudzou.
	Tanzania	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 16 June 2015		A first technical meeting took place in Dar-Es-Salaam 4-6 July 2016. Vague interest in discussing a SFPA with the EU.
	Kenya	No Agreement/Protocol					/	Adopted on 18 July 2016		
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	13 October 2021 (1-year extension)			TBD		/	Adopted on 7 July 2020		The current protocol is in force since 14 October 2016. Currently the only SFPA in the Pacific. Last JCM took place in Rarotonga from 20 to 22 February 2019. Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation finalised. The first round of negotiations took place on 16 July 2020 (videoconference). A one-year extension was agreed in 2020 because of the pandemic restriction preventing the negotiations to take place.
	Kiribati	15 September 2015 - EXPIRED			TBD		/	Adopted on 26 January 2015		Three rounds of negotiations took place (last one in November 2017). A technical meeting took place from 5 to 7 June 2019. Next round to be fixed.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

BUREAU			
Chair	KARLESKIND Pierre		
1st Vice-Chair	VAN DALEN Peter	3rd Vice-Chair	FERRANDINO Giuseppe
2nd Vice-Chair	GADE Søren	4th Vice-Chair	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia

COORDINATORS			
EPP	MATO Gabriel	ID	CONTE Rosanna
S&D	AGUILERA Clara	ECR	TOMASIC Ruža
Renew	GADE Søren Gade	The Left	FERREIRA João
Greens/EFA	O'SULLIVAN Grace		

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES FULL MEMBERS			SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
AGUILERA Clara	ES	S&D	ANDROULAKIS Nikos	EL	S&D
BARTOLO Pietro	IT	S&D	AVRAM Carmen	RO	S&D
BELLAMY François-Xavier	FR	EPP	BITEAU Benoît	FR	Greens/EFA
BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	Renew	BOMPARD Manuel	FR	The Left
CARVALHAIS Isabel	PT	S&D	CHABAUD Catherine	FR	Renew
CASANOVA Massimo	IT	ID	GONZALEZ CASARES Nicolás	ES	S&D
CONTE Rosanna	IT	ID	GRANT Valentino	IT	ID
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	EPP	HIDVEGHI Balázs	HU	EPP
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	Greens/EFA	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
FERREIRA João	PT	The Left	HUITEMA Jan	NL	Renew
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	The Left	KOKKALIS Petros	EL	The Left
HERBST Niclas	DE	EPP	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
JAMET France	FR	ID	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
MATić Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
MILLAN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	RAFALSKA Elżbieta	PL	ECR
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
RUISSSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR	WALSH Maria	IE	EPP
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
TOMASIC Ruža	HR	ECR	ZARZALEJOS Javier	ES	EPP
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP	ŽDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2021

- Monday, 1 February, 13:45 - 15:45
- Friday, 5 February, 9:00 - 10:00
- Monday, 22 February, 13:45 - 16:15
- Monday, 22 February, 16:45 - 18:45
- Tuesday, 23 February, 09:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday, 17 March, 13:45 - 15:45
- Thursday, 18 March, 09:00 - 12:00
- Thursday, 18 March, 13:45 - 15:45

USEFUL LINKS

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries [link](#)
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) [link](#)
- @ Portuguese Presidency of the Council [link](#)
- @ FAO Fishery and Aquaculture [link](#)
- @ ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea [link](#)

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