

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – FEBRUARY 2021

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Monday, 22 February 2021, 13:45 – 16:15 & 16:45 – 18:45

ANTALL 4Q1 & VISIOCONFERENCE

(Brussels time)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Vote on the draft report “The impact on fisheries of marine litter”**
- ▶ **Vote on the agreement reached in trilogue on the new EMFAF-Regulation (European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund)**
- ▶ **Presentation of INI report “Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea”**
- ▶ **Exchange of views with Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General of DG MARE**

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AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

17 & 18 March 2021

ONGOING FILES / DOSSIERS

COD reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Establishing the Brexit Adjustment Reserve COM(2020)0854 2020/0380(COD) PECH/9/05067	TBC	COD Rule 57 PECH/REGI & BUDG	TBC	TBC
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
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	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 COM(2019)619 - C9-0188/2019 2019/0272(COD) PECH/9/02027	Ferrandino	COD	Trilogue closed on 10/11/2020	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 I
Reports adopted in EP 1st reading (awaiting 2nd reading)	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
European Maritime Fisheries & Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 2018/0210(COD) PECH/9/01216	Mato	COD	Trilogue closed: 03/12/2020 Vote on prov. agreement: 22/02/2021	2nd Reading adoption (tbc)
NLE reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement EU-Greenland COM(2021)0072 2021/0037 (NLE) PECH/9/05333	TBC (new referral)	NLE	TBC	TBC

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
Challenges and opportunities for the fishing sector in the Black Sea 2019/2159 (INI) PECH/9/01967	Hristov	INI*	JUNE	JULY
The impact on fisheries of marine litter 2019/2160 (INI) PECH/9/01968	Chabaud	INI*	22/02/2021	MARCH I/ MARCH II (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*	APRIL/MAY (tbc)	JUNE (tbc)
Consequences for fish stocks and fisheries related to rising seawater temperatures 2019/2163 (INI) PECH/9/01972	Conte	INI*	12-13/04/2021	TBC
Securing the objectives of the landing obligation under Article 15 CFP 2019/2177 (INI) PECH/9/01993	Gade	INI*	17-18/03/2021	MAY (tbc)
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps 2019/2178 (INI) PECH/9/01994	Stancanelli	INI*	MAY	JUNE (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	22/02/2021	15/03/2021
Farm to Fork strategy 2020/2260(INI) PECH/9/02601	Bilbao Barandica	INI	17-18/03/2021	15/03/2021
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 2020/2273(INI) PECH/9/03084	Mato	INI	17-18/03/2021 (tbc)	23/03/2021 (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 2020 onwards.

Atlantic maritime strategy – Atlantic action plan 2.0 2020/2276(INI) PECH/9/04116	Karleskind	INI	March/April (tbc)	TBC
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**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](#)

Modernizing EU fisheries control system

05/02/2021

Fisheries Committee agrees on new rules to update the control of fishing activities in the EU and to regulate the use of new technologies, whilst improving traceability and transparency.

With 23 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions the Committee on Fisheries adopted today its position regarding European Commission's proposal on Fisheries Control, which will shape the rules for fishing activities in the EU for the next 15 years.

On-board cameras

The agreed text introduces limitations on the use of on-board cameras or other discard-monitoring equipment, a tool proposed by the Commission to control compliance with the landing obligation at sea. Such equipment would be mandatory only for vessels having committed two or more serious infringements and the obligation should be temporary.

Operators could receive incentives, such as additional allocation of quota, to adhere to the technology on a voluntary basis, suggests the Fisheries Committee.

MEPs also introduced provisions to assure the protection of privacy and personal data.

The Commission is asked to review the effectiveness of on-board cameras or recording devices for the control of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) after 5 years and to assess new technology that could be available by then.

Monitoring

In order to increase security at sea, MEPs agree that all vessels should be equipped with a geolocation device allowing for its automatic location and identification, but add that operators could benefit from aid the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to implement the technology.

The use of electronic logbooks to record fishing activities should also be mandatory to

all vessels, according to the resolution adopted. Nevertheless, the Fisheries Committee wants vessels smaller than 12 metres to be allowed to fill a simplified form and submit the data by the end of the fishing day, instead of after each fishing operation, as proposed by the Commission. This would protect small-scale fleet from excessive administrative burden, MEPs argue.

According to the current proposal, operators would have four years from the entry into force to equip vessels with the new technologies required.

Traceability

The adopted report reinforces traceability rules throughout the food chain, introducing a new definition on lots, more flexible in order to meet the industry's needs. The origin and species are compulsory information in all fishery or aquaculture product, including processed products, either from European origin or imported.

Recreational Fishing

A clear definition of recreational fishing was added to the Commission's proposal and MEPs ask for an "appropriate system of sanctions" for those in the sector who do not comply with EU conservation measures or CPF's rules.

The report also supports the call for an impact assessment of recreational fishing over fishing stocks, the environment and the economy.

Infringements

The Fisheries Committee voted in favour of a broader mandate to the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and creating a "Union's Register" where Member States should publish information concerning fishing controls, infringements, sanctions and lost gear, with the aim to increase transparency.

In relation to third countries, the Commission should be able to introduce safeguard measures, such as a temporary suspension of preferential tariffs, whenever it detects illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities.

Background

On 30 May 2018, the European Commission proposed the revision of the fisheries control system. The aim is to update five existing regulations, harmonising fisheries control and

inspection system across Member States and modernizing a set of rules conceived before the 2013 CFP reform.

Next Steps

The report will be submitted to plenary confirmation on 8 March. Trilogue negotiations will then start as soon as the Council is ready.

Portuguese Presidency outlines priorities to EP committees **28/01/2021**

Ministers outlined the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU to parliamentary committees, in a series of meetings.

On 26 January, **Maritime Affairs Minister Ricardo Serrão Santos** told the Fisheries Committee that the Presidency is committed to advancing negotiations on quotas with the UK and reaching a deal on this with Norway. MEPs complained about the uncertainty around fishing conditions following Brexit and how the Brexit Reserve Adjustment is to be distributed among countries.

They also highlighted the importance of concluding the regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, obtaining a general agreement on the new Fisheries Control, and concluding fishing deals with third countries, like Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry and Madagascar. Serrão Santos assured them that these are all priorities for the Portuguese Presidency.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION **News - Press service**

COMING UP: “EUMOFA Talks” pilot episode dives into blue bioeconomy on 16 February 2021 **12/02/2021**

Join the premiere event of the new interactive EUMOFA Talks series. In this episode, experts will shed light on cutting-edge innovations in the blue bioeconomy

and present the outlook for the sector in Europe.

EUMOFA invites you to join the Talk “Blue Bioeconomy Outlook” at 15:00 (CET) 16 February 2021.

Experts will discuss sustainable innovations in the area of renewable aquatic biological resources, also addressed in EUMOFA’s recently released “Blue bioeconomy report”. In particular, the discussions will cover EUMOFA’s assessments of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA), cellular mariculture and plant cell technology, and innovative uses for fish rest raw material (RRM) in Denmark.

The panel of experts includes

- Meredith Lloyd-Evans (BioBridge)
- Eirik Hess (Kontali Analyse/EUMOFA)
- Pierre Erwes (BioMarine), and
- Maris Stulgis (European Commission - DG MARE).

Alessandro Pititto (COGEA/EUMOFA) will moderate the event.

Throughout the event, you will have ample time to ask questions or share your views with the speakers.

The event is free, and you can [register here](#) to receive the link to join. Should you have any further questions about the event, please [contact the EUMOFA team](#)

Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector – conclusions from the public consultation **11/02/2021**

The European Commission is preparing a comprehensive cross-sectoral EU algae initiative. The aim of the initiative is to increase the sustainable production, consumption and use of algae and algae-based products. Because of their small carbon and environmental footprint, raising the profile of algae will help achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal, the transition to a green, circular and carbon-neutral EU.

Algae represent a largely untapped resource in Europe. They can be used to produce food, feed, pharmaceuticals, bioplastics, fertilisers

and biofuels. The potential of algae is recognized in EU initiatives such as Farm to Fork and the new circular economy action plan.

A recent [public consultation](#) on the Commission's inception impact assessment revealed a broad interest in the subject. EU and non-EU citizens, research institutions, NGOs, business organisations, companies and public authorities contributed with their opinions and suggestions.

The overwhelming majority of responses to the consultation confirmed the relevance of five priorities to unlock the potential of the EU algae sector:

1. Improving regulatory and governance framework
2. Supporting functioning of the market
3. Improving business environment
4. Increasing social awareness and acceptance
5. Closing knowledge, research and innovation gaps

Respondents also agreed that the EU has an important role to support the development of the EU algae sector and should help make the algae sector more competitive and sustainable. Based on the consultation and further preparatory work in the course of 2021, the Commission will now identify effective actions, new opportunities and the needs of the sector to be considered within the forthcoming EU Algae Initiative.

More information

[All contributions to the public consultation on the “Blue bioeconomy – towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector” roadmap](#)

For more information on the subject of algae in Europe, you can consult the policy recommendations of the Blue Bioeconomy Forum Roadmap ([final report](#), [brochure](#)) published in December 2019.

Watch Portuguese top Chef Rui Paula cook anglerfish <https://youtu.be/za1lyGbG3c0>

European Union and Gabon building a new partnership for sustainable fisheries

11/02/2021

On 10 February 2021, the European Union and the Gabonese Republic established a new Protocol to their Fisheries Agreement. The Agreement allows European Union vessels to access Gabonese waters for a period of 5 years and contributes to the development of the Gabonese fisheries sector.

This new Protocol creates a framework for cooperation and governance with Gabon in the field of fisheries and guarantees respect for the fundamental values of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy based on sustainable resource management, improved fisheries governance and transparency.

In addition, this new Protocol responds to Gabon's desire to improve the competitiveness of the sector and to encourage the creation of added value and workplaces, in particular through incentives to disembark catches and, in the long term, to enhance their value.

Background

Access of European tuna vessels to waters and fishery resources in the Gabonese fishing zone will be authorised in return for an annual financial contribution from the European Union of €1,6 million.

In addition, financial support of €1 million per year will be provided by the European Union to contribute to the development of the fisheries sector and to the sustainable management of stocks through, inter alia, scientific capacity building, observation and management of the marine environment, as well as measures to protect fragile ecosystems such as marine protected areas.

Support will also contribute to the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

European ship-owners will complement the EU contribution by circa €2,6 million per year, to be adjusted according to their level of catches.

The European fleet will consist of 27 tuna seiners, 6 pole-and-line tuna vessels and 4 trawlers targeting demersal fish and crustaceans in an exploratory fishery.

Recovery must be based on sustainability, says EU at the FAO Committee on Fisheries

08/02/2021

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the seafood sector dominated the 34th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), 1-5 February 2021. Across the world, market disruption has hit fisheries and aquaculture hard, adversely affecting the livelihoods of fishers and seafood farmers. At the same time, the pandemic has underscored the vital contribution of the sector to the global economy, to nutrition and to food security.

In line with the European Green Deal, the EU stressed that the post-Covid recovery must be based on sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture, as the best tool to balance the multiple challenges of fostering economic development, whilst promoting conservation, biodiversity, food security and the fight against climate change.

As the world's largest donor of official development assistance and the principal donor to FAO, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to supporting and promoting the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development.

Reaffirming its "zero tolerance" approach to Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing, the EU contributed directly to the decision to develop, for adoption in 2022, FAO Guidelines on Transshipment operations that currently remain largely unregulated and insufficiently monitored and controlled. The EU also contributed to an agreement to progress on developing FAO Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines in 2021 to ensure that the growth of global aquaculture necessary to meet increasing world demand for protein does not come at the expense of the environment, economic development or social conditions. Finally, the EU invited FAO to pursue the elaboration of draft guidance on social responsibility in fish value chains, building more explicitly upon key conventions in this domain^[1]. These could be important soft international law instruments to advance EU interests on aquaculture and fisheries worldwide under the European Green Deal.

The delegations to the COFI meeting endorsed a [Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture](#). The declaration acknowledges the achievements of the fisheries and aquaculture sector since the establishment of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 25 years ago, and gathers collective momentum in tackling the challenges and opportunities to secure the long-term sustainability of the sector.

^[1] In particular the ILO work in fishing Convention C-188, the IMO Convention on standards of training certification and watch keeping for fishing vessels personnel, the Cape Town Agreement on Safety of Fishing vessels and, to meet the specific needs of small-scale fisheries value chains and their operators, particularly women, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF).

Ocean governance: EU joins the International Coral Reef Initiative to protect marine ecosystems

05/02/2021

Commissioner Sinkevičius represented the EU in the General Assembly of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). The EU has become the latest member of this global partnership for the conservation of the world's coral reefs.

In the context of the EU's ambitious International Ocean Governance agenda, the ICRI membership is an opportunity to work together with the almost 90 organisations and countries – members of the ICRI – which are acting to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems by sustainably managing coral reefs and associated ecosystems, building capacity and raising awareness.

Coral reefs and related ecosystems are facing serious degradation, primarily due to human-caused stresses such as pollution, habitat destruction and climate change. This work will feed into the preparations for the UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China (COP 15) later this year that is expected to agree on an ambitious post-2020 global

biodiversity framework. The Commission presented last year, as part of the [European Green Deal](#), its [Biodiversity Strategy](#) which aims, amongst others, to strengthen the protection of marine ecosystems and to restore them to a “good environmental status”.

European Commission and top chefs promote sustainable fish and seafood consumption

02/02/2021

The European Commission has launched ‘Taste the Ocean’, a brand new social media campaign in which top chefs promote the consumption of sustainably caught or produced fish and seafood.

The campaign comes at a time when fishers and aquaculture producers are struggling for survival, after nearly one year of lockdown or closure of restaurants and catering – the prime outlets for their products.

But more than just promoting fish consumption, the European Commission wants to create awareness among consumers about the importance of local, seasonal and sustainable consumption. When produced or harvested correctly, fish and seafood can have an important place in a sustainable diet, with an environmental and carbon footprint much lower than most land-based animal protein. Moreover, the production of shellfish such as mussels or oysters can even help prevent coastal erosion, an increasing problem in many European coastal areas.

Over the coming three months, top chefs from nine EU countries will share their recipes made with various kinds of delicious fish or shellfish from fisheries and aquaculture. More countries will follow in a next season, still planned for this year. During the campaign, the Commission will put the limelight on the beauty of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, but also their challenges and complexities. Hopefully, it will lead to a better understanding and, who knows, a passionate conversation at the fish monger!

Moreover, at the occasion of the campaign start, the season premiere of Euronews’ OCEAN series explores how EU regulation empowers European consumers to make

informed seafood choices. [Watch the latest episode of OCEAN](#)

And make sure to follow on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter using #TasteTheOcean!

Campaign website: <https://europa.eu/taste-the-ocean>

SpecTUNA: better quality and a more competitive tuna industry thanks to EU funding

28/01/2021

Tuna is the most consumed fish product in the EU. Every one of us eats, on average, 2.78 kg of tuna every year, most of which is canned tuna. As the most important product of the canning industry, tuna generates around 20,000 direct jobs and 60,000 jobs in supporting sectors. The industry is growing considerably in response to demand, but processing methods remain largely traditional with low levels of mechanisation.

The SpecTUNA project, co-funded by the EU, addresses the issues of productivity and safety of the sector, and introduces new technologies to monitor quality - to the advantage of both industry workers and EU consumers.

Canned tuna is prepared from the fish loins, extracted after de-heading, de-finning, and cutting the tuna in halves; then loins are cooked and placed in cans. Currently, this process is performed manually, using industrial band saws, and a high risk work. On top of the safety challenge, there is a quality one. Each batch of raw tuna gets the same treatment of thermal cooking and sterilisation. However, each tuna is different, in biometric qualities and nutritional values.

The SpecTUNA project aims to address both challenge: it automatizes the preparation prior to canning, and provides information on the quality of each of the tuna pieces.

SpecTUNA is based on four modules: A robotic arm with artificial vision and 3D laser scanning picks each frozen tuna and takes it to the cutting module, where the loins are extracted. Then, loins are analysed using near infrared and hyperspectral image analysis, enabling continuous, non-destructive quality control with a processing capacity of 180 tuna units per hour. Eventually each piece is

classified depending on volume, weight, or nutritional characteristic (more/less salty, fat content, etc.). The next steps are to fine-tune the design and scale up capacity, in order to validate it in a full-scale industrial environment in La Gondola's plant. Ultimately, the final design will turn into a commercial version, which will be marketed by EMENASA.

SpecTUNA brings all-round benefits. The very traditional sector of canned tuna will be modernized using the latest technology, leading to a *"jump in the current industry, contributing to increase the competitiveness of the European sector of canned of fish, formed mainly by SMEs, and to position it better in front of competitors"*, according to ANFACO-CECOPECA. The SpecTUNA concept can be applied also to other fish products (hake, cod, salmon, etc.) and may lead to technological improvements for the entire fish-processing sector. Increased automation will improve the working conditions in the fish-processing sector, significantly reducing the number of accidents, and consumers will have access to high-quality, highly nutritional and trustworthy products.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the January edition of [Euronews Ocean episode on Sea to Plate](#)

Keep informed about the project:

[SpecTUNA website](#)

[SpecTUNA: Automated modular system for cutting and classifying frozen tuna using hyperspectral characterization](#)

PescadeRías: EU funding adds value to artisanal fisheries in Galicia

28/01/2021

Artisanal fisheries are characterised by their diversity: its catches belong to multiple species and biological groups. They are also diverse in their setup, organised in loose groups for which it is difficult to coordinate coherent marketing strategies.

Thanks to an EU-supported project, a community of producer associations and professionals in Galicia on Spain's Atlantic coast is now able to add value to their products, through a joint brand.

The brand *PescadeRías ¿de onde se non?* (Fisheries, from where else?) is an initiative of the Consellería do Mar de la Xunta de Galicia (the regional maritime affairs government). Its main objective is to promote high quality fish and shellfish from Galicia caught in an artisanal, environmentally friendly and sustainable way.

All the products branded *PescadeRías ¿de onde se non?* come from the daily catches by the local, small scale fleet, landed in every port of Galicia. When they are sold for the first time, they have been less than 24 hours out of the sea. Moreover, the project has implemented a traceability chain for the *PescadeRías ¿de onde se non?* branded products. From the moment, when the fish is received by the auctioneers via the retail level until it reaches the final consumer. This provides consumers with a comprehensive report, including information such as the characteristics of the fish or shellfish, weight and the date and area of capture, and an overview of all the agents of the brand through which that product has passed.

The *PescadeRías ¿de onde se non?* brand not only distinguishes the catches on sale, but the whole value chain from the fishers organisations (*Cofradías*), the fish markets and first sale places, the distributors, the processing companies and even the restaurants using the products.

An important aspect of the *PescadeRías ¿de onde se non?* project is the awareness-building and promotional effort (which now takes place also through a mobile App), showcasing to society the role that each of the brand partners play in the process that brings fish and shellfish from the sea to the plate. The brand has 429 labelled partners, and has certified 12,265 tonnes of seafood in 2020, for a total of 104,422 tonnes since its inception. EU funding has supported the creation of the brand itself, and its promotion and outreach effort, as well as the training of the project stakeholders and the monitoring of the certification, thus benefitting both consumers and the industry sector.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the January edition of [Euronews Ocean episode on Sea to Plate](#)

Keep informed about the project:

Website: <https://deondesenon.xunta.gal/en>
Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/pescaderias.deondesenon/>
Videos: <https://deondesenon.xunta.gal/en/what-is-pescaderias/360-videos>
<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-167470>

Terre et Mer: EU-support for sustainable seafood and social enterprises

28/01/2021

Promoting sustainable fisheries and supporting local communities in diversifying their economies and creating new jobs are key priorities of the EU's common fisheries policy. The EU-funded project Terre et Mer (land and sea), in the Hérault department in southern France, does all of the above and goes one step further, advocating inclusion in the job market.

Some years ago, the management of the *Criée* (fish market) of Grau d'Agde noticed that certain species of lesser-known fishes were harder to sell, but also that large unexpected influxes of catches could go unsold. Despite the excellent quality of the produce, there was the risk of some of it going to waste. In the same region, the Red Cross (through its subsidiary [Capdife](#)), was active in workplace integration with four organic vegetables farming sites. The *Criée* and Red Cross had complementary objectives: a more efficient marketing of fish and better promotion of fishery resources, on the one hand, and the promotion of inclusive employment, on the other. Therefore, they decided to join forces and created in May 2019 *Terre et Mer*, a seafood processing and social integration enterprise. However, EU-funding was vital.

Terre et Mer manufactures and markets ready-to-cook, ready-to-eat fish. Its purpose is to enhance the value of Agde fisheries products: lesser-known fish species are on sale, ready to be eaten or cooked, less than 16 hours after they have been caught. Surplus catches are processed and frozen, and put on the market,

when it is no longer their fishing season: currently, the available products are skate, mackerel, hake, capelin, red mullet and octopus. There are six species of fish in the "ready-to-cook" range, and a total of 24 fresh and frozen products. Frozen seafood is supplied to local canteens of schools and retirement homes, and to restaurants, and will in the future also be made available to the public in normal retail. The project includes a third component, associating seafood products and vegetables from organic farming through the common *Capdife* trademark.

The project does not compete with fishmongers or local distribution channels but responds to consumer demand for ready-made meals while encouraging locals to eat locally caught seafood. This contributes to economic activity in the region. Through its operations, *Terre et Mer* supports unemployed, marginalized citizens to gain work experience and skills in the seafood processing laboratory set up in the *Criée* of Grau d'Agde. *Terre et Mer* has created seven new jobs (five previously unemployed people under the supervision of a Production Manager and a Development Manager). Currently, 15 tonnes per year of frozen products leave the processing laboratory, and 60 tonnes of fresh seafood are going to be processed annually by 2021.

The EU funding has supported a project with three significant objectives: sustainability, since *Terre et Mer* absorbs fish catches that would otherwise have been wasted and distributes them locally; economic and territorial development, and eventually solidarity as it succeeds in integrating disadvantaged citizens in the job market with training and employment opportunities.

Did you like this story?

Then also check out the January edition of [Euronews Ocean episode on Sea to Plate](#)

New release of underwater terrain model from EMODnet

27/01/2021

“Bathymetry” is the study of underwater depth of ocean floors or lake floors. In other words, bathymetry is the underwater

equivalent to hypsometry or topography and a crucial source of data and information enabling many economic and scientific activities at sea.

The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) has recently released an upgraded version of their popular Digital Terrain Model, which is a key reference for government, science and industry. The new release has benefitted from significant developments and expert input and is used in a range of applications, from marine science to sustainable ocean governance and blue economy activities. DTM provides users easy and free access to high quality bathymetric data.

Read more on [EMODnet website](#)

[EMODnet](#) is a network of organisations supported by the EU's maritime policy. These organisations work together to observe the sea, process the data according to international standards and make that information freely available as interoperable data layers and data products.

Euronews OCEAN Season 3 episode 1 – From sea to plate 26/01/2021

After the launch of the Farm to Fork Strategy in 2020 and just ahead of the start of DG MARE's own #TasteTheOcean campaign, the latest episode of Ocean looks at the complex journey of seafood from the moment it is caught to the moment it lands on your plate.

How much do we know about the origin of the fish we eat — and how can we be certain of its safety and quality? This episode, filmed in Vigo, Spain, follows the fish and other seafood from a fishing boat through landing and sorting procedures to the auction hall, processing and canning factory, a retail shop and a restaurant — explaining every step of the process from “sea to plate”, including how labelling empowers the consumer to make informed, sustainable retail choices.

Tune in to Euronews from 26 January @ 20:50 CET – on any platform.

OCEAN is a Euronews magazine in collaboration with the Directorate-General for

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE). Season 3 features monthly 8-minute videos where we highlight fascinating projects and developments related to the ocean and coastal communities.

The first two seasons 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](#).

First BlueInvest fund agreements secure EUR 45 million for the blue economy 26/01/2021

The European Commission is partnering with the European Investment Fund, to announce EUR 45 million of BlueInvest fund financing into 2 funds targeting the blue economy across Europe.

During the [BlueInvest Day conference](#) in Brussels, EIF Chief Executive Alain Godard and Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, confirmed investments into [Astanor Ventures](#) and [Blue Horizon Ventures I](#).

The BlueInvest pilot initiative managed by the European Investment Fund, provides financing to underlying equity funds that strategically target and support the innovative blue economy. This sector can play an important role in the transformation to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050, an ambition announced in the [European Green Deal](#). The programme is backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the financial pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe.

[Since its launch last year](#), EIF has deployed EUR 45 million of the EUR 75 million BlueInvest pilot initiative. Two new funds with established teams have received funding to-date, whose strategies encompass the agrifood tech industry including the blue economy, with an emphasis on food security, health and sustainability. These investments will support

start-ups developing innovative products, materials, and services that can contribute to enhance ocean conservation and the sustainability of the blue economy.

Three additional fund investments into specialised blue economy funds, and backed by BlueInvest and InnovFin Equity under [Horizon 2020](#) finance, have also already been approved and are expected to materialise during the course of 2021. It is thus expected that the BlueInvest funds will be signed in the coming months. Through investments into these funds, around EUR 300 million in equity funding will be mobilised for investment in innovative and sustainable ventures active in the Blue Economy.

Summary of the public consultation on the way forward for the European Union's Arctic policy

26/01/2021

The European Commission and the External Action Service have released the summary of the results of the public consultation on the way forward for the European Union's Arctic policy.

The EU's current [Arctic policy](#), set out in a Joint Communication from 2016, is based on three pillars: fighting climate change and protecting the environment, promoting sustainable development and strengthening international cooperation.

In July 2020, the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) launched a public consultation with a view to updating its policy. Closed on 10 November 2020, the consultation helped to reflect more broadly on the new challenges and opportunities in the Arctic region, in light of the EU's objectives under the [European Green Deal](#) and the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda.

The consultation process involved a wide range of Arctic stakeholders, public and private alike, governmental and non-governmental, regional and local.

The overwhelming majority of responses to the consultation confirmed the continued relevance of the current Arctic priorities. What is clear from the consultation is that the EU has

an important role to play in making the Arctic safe, stable, sustainable and prosperous, including through enhanced international cooperation. According to contributors the EU should

- take a long-term view and discourage environmentally unsustainable practices that undermine Arctic ecosystems, inhabitants and species
- make a stronger link between its climate policy, the European Green Deal and the updated EU Arctic policy to achieve sustainable development of the Arctic and
- maintain science and research at the heart of EU policies and actions in the Arctic

Against this background, the European Commission and the EEAS will re-examine the role of the EU in Arctic affairs and update the 2016 Joint Communication on an integrated European Union policy for the Arctic by the end of 2021.

More information

[Summary of the results of the public consultation on the EU Arctic policy](#)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the [Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#)

22 February 2021

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
NSAC	24/02/2021	virtual	Biodiversity FG
PELAC	01/03/2021	videoconference	WG II
PELAC	03/03/2021	videoconference	WG I, ExCom
CC RUP	08/03/2021	virtual	Pelagics WG
NWWAC	09/03/2021	virtual	Horizontal WG
NWWAC	10/03/2021	virtual	WG 3 English Channel
CC RUP	12/03/2021	virtual	IUU fishing WG
CC RUP	15/03/2021	virtual	Benthics and Demersal WG
LDAC	15/03/2021	videoconference	WG 1
NSAC	16/03/2021	virtual	Technical mesures FG
LDAC	16/03/2021	videoconference	WG 4
CC RUP	17/03/2021	virtual	Aquaculture WG
LDAC	18/03/2021	videoconference	WG 5
CC RUP	29/03/2021	virtual	ExCom

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 ([link](#))
- **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			
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
5-9 July	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	Annual meeting	Mauritius (TBC)
TBD	UN	UN pre-Food System Summit	ROME
21 – 23 July	UN	15 th round of informal consultations of States Parties to the UNFSA	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	MARKEY Colm	IE	EPP
JAMET France	FR	ID	MATO Gabriel	ES	EPP
KARLESKIND Pierre	FR	Renew	MEBAREK Nora	FR	S&D
MATić Predrag Fred	HR	S&D	MELO Nuno	PT	EPP
MILLAN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP	MILAZZO Giuseppe	IT	EPP
MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP	PIRBAKAS Maxette	FR	ID
O'SULLIVAN Grace	IE	Greens/EFA	RAFALSKA Elżbieta	PL	ECR
PIZARRO Manuel	PT	S&D	SCHMIEDTBAUER Simone	AT	EPP
ROOSE Caroline	FR	Greens/EFA	STANCANELLI Raffaele	IT	ECR
RUISSEN Bert-Jan	NL	ECR	TARDINO Annalisa	IT	ID
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
TOMASIC Ruža	HR	ECR	ZDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA
WIESNER Emma	SV	Renew			
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2021

- Wednesday, 17 March, 13:45 - 18:45
- Thursday, 18 March, 09:00 - 12:00

- Monday, 12 April, 13:45 - 18:45
- Tuesday, 13 April, 13:45 - 18:45
- Monday, 19 April, 13:45 - 18:45

- Tuesday, 25 May, 09:00 - 12:00
- Tuesday, 25 May, 13:45 - 18:45

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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