

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – MARCH 2021

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 13:45 – 16:15 & 16:45 – 18:45

SPINELLI 1G3 & VISIOCONFERENCE

Thursday, 18 March 2021, 9:00 – 12:00

ANTALL 2Q2 & VISIOCONFERENCE

(Brussels time)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Vote on the draft opinion “EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030”**
- ▶ **Presentation of INI reports “The impact on the fishing sector of offshore windfarms” and “Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea”**
- ▶ **Presentation of ICES Study "Bycatch of protected and potentially vulnerable marine vertebrates”**
- ▶ **State of play in the implementation of the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement**
- ▶ **Debate on the ongoing negotiations on the new EU-Mauritania Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement**

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AGENDA

Next meetings of the Committee on Fisheries:

12 & 13 April 2021

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



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Pierre KARLESKIND
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

Over the past weeks the Committee's work has focused increasingly on some very interesting own-initiative reports covering a broad range of subjects. Some refer to the impact on the fishing sector of environmental factors, such as offshore windfarms or other renewable energy systems, the consequences of rising seawater temperatures or the impact of marine litter, a report we adopted in the last meeting. The PECH contribution to the report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, to be voted today, also falls under this heading.

Other reports provide for a more geographical focus: they assess the status of fish stocks and perspectives for fisheries in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean more in general.

Yet another interesting angle is provided by the report looking at the ageing problem in fisheries and trying to identify suitable measures to attract the younger generation to the profession of fisher or to jobs in the fishing industry more in general. And, last but not least, a political analysis of how to secure the objectives of the "landing obligation" under Article 15 CFP, a difficult and controversial subject, as we all know. This variety of own-initiative reports proves once more how active our Members are, and keen to launch fresh ideas to the Commission, in order to be moulded into appropriate legislative proposals.

Finally, we take a look at the recent IOTC Special Session, as the EU is a contracting party to this regional fisheries management organisation and a sizable EU tuna fleet is active in the Indian Ocean. The meeting focused mainly on the sustainability of yellowfin and skipjack tuna fisheries, and in this context EU operators have repeatedly urged the IOTC to finally close loopholes for driftnet pelagic fishing. Such nets are still being used there by other fleets, in spite of the international community having adopted a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-nets fishing, especially to catch large migratory species such as tuna.

With regard to our zero-tolerance approach towards IUU fishing, it's time that IOTC enforces the existing rules to finally end such harmful fishing practices.

We look forward to interesting discussions!

Pierre KARLESKIND

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	Bellamy	COD Rule 57 PECH/REGI & BUDG	10/05/2021	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 Pending Council GA
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
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 Prov. agreement adopted: 22/02/2021	2nd Reading adoption (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	10/03/2021
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/9/05416	Karleskind	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 II
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*	12-13/04/2021	JUNE (tbc)
Consequences for fish stocks and fisheries related to rising seawater temperatures 2019/2163 (INI) PECH/9/01972	Conte	INI*	TBC	TBC
The future of fisheries in the Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean in the light of the UK's withdrawal from the EU 2021/2016 (INI) PECH/9/05507	Pizarro	INI*	TBC	TBC
Securing the objectives of the landing obligation under Article 15 CFP 2019/2177 (INI) PECH/9/01993	Gade	INI*	12-13/04/2021	MAY (tbc)
Rebuilding fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea: assessment and next steps 2019/2178 (INI) PECH/9/01994	Stancanelli	INI*	25/05/2021	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	12-13/04/2021	03/06/2021

* As long as the EP operated in "business continuity mode", Committees were instructed to focus on priority legislative files; INI reports were presented/discussed only from September 2020 onwards.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 2020/2273(INI) PECH/9/03084	Mato	INI	17-18/03/2021	22/04/2021
Atlantic maritime strategy – Atlantic action plan 2.0 2020/2276(INI) PECH/9/04116	Karleskind	INI	12-13/04/2021	16/06/2021
A European strategy for offshore renewable energy 2021/2012 (INI) PECH/9/05437	Chabaud	INI	TBC	JULY
Budget 2022 of the European Union – Section III – Commission	Chair	BUDG	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](#)

Fishing rules: Compulsory CCTV for certain vessels to counter infractions

10/03/2021

Parliament adopted its negotiating position on the new Fisheries Control system, which will reform the rules that have governed EU fishing activities since 2010.

By 401 votes in favour, 247 against and 47 abstentions, MEPs agreed to use new technologies to better enforce fishing rules and improve security and transparency. They also insist that consumers must know when, where and how the products they buy are caught.

The use of on-board cameras (CCTV) to carry out checks on landing obligations should be compulsory for a “minimum percentage” of vessels longer than 12 meters and which have been identified as “posing a serious risk of non-compliance”. The equipment will also be imposed as an accompanying sanction for all vessels that commit two or more serious infringements. Vessels that are willing to adopt CCTV on a voluntary basis should be offered incentives such as additional allocation of quotas or having their infringement points removed.

MEPs back the proposal to harmonise sanctions and demand that a “European Union Register” of infringements be set up to centralise information from all member states. They also call for an “appropriate system of sanctions” for infringements committed by recreational fishermen.

Reduce waste, increase security and transparency

In line with the EU’s [Farm-to-Fork Strategy](#), Parliament demands that the origin of fishery and aquaculture products must be traceable throughout the whole food chain, including processed and imported products. Data on the species of fish, the location, date and time it was caught, and the type of gear used should be made available.

In an effort to reduce marine litter, MEPs agree that all vessels should be obliged to notify

national authorities when they lose fishing gear and to carry on board the necessary equipment to retrieve it.

All vessels should also be equipped with a geolocation device allowing them to be automatically located and identified, a measure deemed necessary to improve security at sea, according to the adopted text.

Parliament also proposes to increase the margin of error accepted on the weight of some species estimated by fishermen on board (margin of tolerance).

Next Steps

With today’s vote, Parliament is now ready to start negotiations with Council. According to the current proposal, operators would have four years following the entry into force of the rules to equip vessels with the new technologies required.

Background

On 5 February, the Committee on Fisheries adopted its position regarding the EU’s [Fisheries Control system](#). The proposal updates five existing regulations and harmonise control and inspection systems, as well as sanctions, across EU countries.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[News - Press service](#)

Sustainable Fisheries: EU and Seychelles hold first Joint Committee meeting under new partnership agreement

05/03/2021

On 3 and 4 March 2021, the EU and Seychelles met to review the implementation of the first year of application of the new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and its six years implementing Protocol, and to discuss mechanisms to strengthen their cooperation and common efforts towards sustainable fisheries.

The EU-Seychelles SFPA is the most important tuna agreement in place for the EU both in financial terms and in terms of fishing opportunities.

The new SFPA and its Protocol apply as of 24 February 2020, and represent a key milestone of the long-standing bilateral cooperation in fisheries between the EU and Seychelles, and of their joint commitment to promoting a sustainable and transparent use of marine resources both in Seychelles waters and in the region. Indeed, at their first Joint Committee (JC) meeting under the new SFPA, the Parties acknowledged how their dialogue in such privileged partnership could be strengthened as to enhance cooperation on regional issues and in particular in the framework of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

The socio-economic development of Seychelles and of its fisheries sector is at the core of the activities supported by the EU under the SFPA. Each year, the EU contributes 2.8 million euros by the to promoting the sustainable management of fisheries in Seychelles, as well as to support the development of small-scale fisheries. During the meeting, the Parties reviewed the state of implementation of the actions foreseen for the first year of the program, ranging from the construction of infrastructures dedicated to local fishers (e.g. markets, gears stores) to training activities, and their impact in boosting the local fisheries sector including the local processors, and discussed priorities for the future activities. The availability of funds for a COVID-19 Response Program and its positive impact on the local fisheries sector were recognised as an essential instrument for Seychelles to mitigate the COVID crisis.

The Parties also reviewed the fishing activities under the Protocol, the good level of utilisation of the fishing opportunities and the modalities to reinforce communication channels and monitoring mechanism on the fishing activities, including through the further development and implementation of the *Electronic Reporting System* – ERS. The scientific and observers schemes were also discussed. The implementation of the provisions on embarkation of Seychelles seamen on board fishing vessels was also reviewed.

Altogether, the activities under the SFPA have generated employment in Sychelles, enhanced local labour skills, developed new economic

opportunities, and contributed to Seychelles' development towards becoming a seafood pole of excellence within the region.

Background

The cooperation between the EU and Seychelles on fisheries is longstanding; the first fisheries agreement concluded between the EU and Seychelles dates back from 1987. The current SFPA and implementing Protocol were negotiated at the end of 2019 and they applied provisionally as of 24 February 2020. The EU-SEY SFPA is based on the principles of the common fisheries policy such as respect of the scientific advice and scientific cooperation on data collection and analysis, transparency, governance of fishing activities and non-discrimination. It also complies with Seychelles' legislation and the management measures taken in the context of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), of which both Parties are members.

The EU-SEY Protocol allows the EU fleet (40 tuna purse-seiners and 8 long-liners) to fish in Seychelles waters for a duration of 6 years while continuing to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the Seychelles. It foresees an EU annual financial contribution of €5,300,000, based on a reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes. A significant part of this contribution, €2,800,000 per year, is specifically earmarked to promoting the sustainable management of fisheries in Seychelles, as well as to support the development of small-scale fisheries. For the whole duration of the protocol, the total estimated value, including the EU ship-owners contribution, amounts to €58,200,000, equivalent to €9,700,000 per year.

More information

[Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles](#)

Turning the tide: How to finance a sustainable ocean recovery

02/03/2021

The UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) has just released a new guidance on blue finance to help banks, insurers and investors take action on the

transition of ocean sectors to a sustainable future.

['Turning the Tide: How to finance a sustainable ocean recovery'](#) is a practical toolkit for financial institutions in five key ocean sectors: seafood, shipping, ports, offshore renewables and coastal tourism. It provides a road map with a detailed breakdown of which client activities to seek out as best practice, which activities to challenge, and which activities to avoid completely due to their damaging nature.

The guidance is funded by the European Commission and builds on the [Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles](#), a keystone in the market for financing a sustainable blue economy. These principles were developed in 2017 by the European Commission in partnership with WWF, the Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit and the European Investment Bank. They are now hosted by UNEP FI.

The new release leverages best practices based on input from [over 50 pioneering institutions](#) and experts. [Click here to download the guide](#)

Earlier this year, UNEP FI has published the [Rising Tide Report](#) (Feb 2021), which mapped the ocean finance space, providing an entry point for financial institutions to shift the impact of their activities towards rebuilding ocean prosperity, restoring biodiversity and regenerating ocean health.

Sustainable mariculture: how the EU helped build a successful enterprise in the “smart island” of Capraia

26/02/2021

Capraia is a small island in the upper Tyrrhenian Sea, in the Tuscan Archipelago National Park between Italy and the island of Corsica. Measuring just 8 km by 4 km and located about 70 km off the coast of Tuscany, the Capraia is home to about 300 people.

With an economy dependent mainly on seasonal tourism and a little winemaking, water quality is pristine and the conditions for mariculture are ideal. In 1998, the *Cooperativa Maricoltura e Ricerca*, Mariculture and

Research Cooperative (Maricap) opened up shop in Capraia, taking advantage of a regional initiative to reduce fishing pressure through mariculture. Yet, in its first iteration the Cooperative didn't operate for long, and remained de facto dormant until 2005.

Things changed when local fisher Vincenzo Romano and his friend Fabio Giorgi decided to take over the cooperative. Vincenzo, motivated by an enduring love for the sea, rejected the path that most young people of his generation had followed: leaving Capraia for the mainland to find work. Together with Fabio, who shared his passion for the sea, they revived the Maricap project. Their driving idea was to take advantage of the extremely clean waters around the island to farm high quality, eco-sustainable sea bream and sea bass with the utmost attention to animal welfare, and at competitive prices.

As the plant had been virtually abandoned from 1998 to 2005, it needed modernization, if Vincenzo and Fabio were to succeed in their project. EU funding has been instrumental to this modernization and made the cooperative's operations viable, by covering the costs of three major upgrades: in the first place, the cooperative's warehouse was provided with solar panels to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate dependence on the power grid. Secondly, Maricap purchased a refrigerated truck, to ensure that the high-quality products reach the markets on the mainland and provide an unbroken cold chain, when ferries are being delayed by bad weather. Furthermore, the EU has helped improve the mariculture plant with two additional cages installed at sea and with the installation of an innovative and patented feed distribution system. The cages are 20 meters deep and they are placed in a spot where the average depth of the sea is 50m, and this allows for greater oxygenation and current.

[Read more](#)

Spanish fishers mobilizing to preserve biodiversity, with EU support

26/02/2021

The Cabo de Palos Marine Reserve is the oldest marine reserve in the region of Murcia, Spain. Its status as a protected area since 1995 has favoured a thriving marine life. Murcia is a region of exceptional marine biodiversity, which enjoys a high level of protection, including 12 Natura 2000 sites and two Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

Fisheries and tourism are important activities in the area, both of which are highly dependent on the quality of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity.

Unfortunately, the very same underwater environment that made the reserve an important tourist destination for marine activities has also made it a target for poachers: a problem that local fishers are helping to tackle.

[Murcia's Fisheries Local Action Groups \(FLAG\)](#) has identified combatting illegal fishing as one of the main priorities in marine reserves. Much illegal fishing takes place during the summer months, when tourism leads to high demand in restaurants for local fish and shellfish, putting heavy pressure on certain valuable species such as grouper, lobster and pollock.

The Cabo de Palos marine reserve is permanently patrolled by a company contracted by the regional administration. However, poaching continues to take place, with illegal fishers simply adapting to avoid the regular patrols. That is why, in 2018, the FLAG decided to fund a new initiative from the *Cofradía* of Cartagena (local fishing organisation). Each year one of the seven boats of the *Cofradía* authorised to operate in the marine reserve undertakes surveillance of the area. Through the EU funded project "Islas Hormigas" (the name refers to a group of small islands within the reserve), the FLAG pays financial compensation to that specific boat, so that it can be fully dedicated to strengthening surveillance activities in the reserve during the most critical months of the year. Upon finding illegal activity, the fishers signal to the potential poacher that he is operating in waters where fishing is forbidden and then alert the region's coast guards to officially sanction the poachers. This has led not only to ensuring better prosecution of

illegal fishing; it is also a deterrent to poachers that regularly committed infringements in the area, as the ongoing project is well advertised.

[Read more](#)

STARFISH 4.0: EU funds innovative digital solutions for supporting small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean

26/02/2021

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) account for 50% of the global catch and 95% of the world's fishers. In the EU, SSF make up 85% of all fishing vessels and have a fundamental role to play from a biodiversity, economic and social perspective.

Yet very little is known about how much fish SSF catch, which species and where, and this creates significant challenges for sustainable resource management; moreover the measures used to regulate and monitor large-scale industrial fisheries simply will not work for local and traditional SSF. In this context, the EU supports fisheries to adopt more sustainable practices and actively seeks innovative ideas that aim at modernising the fisheries control and management system. One such promising idea has surfaced with the STARFISH project.

STARFISH 4.0 is an EU-funded 2-year project (2020-2021), proposing new technologies for the safety of small-scale fishers and sustainable marine resource management. This project empowers local, small-scale fishers, increasing their opportunity to fish further offshore for higher value species and actively engage in the management of their marine protected areas, while ensuring traceability, which improves marketability of catches. The resilience built in SSF through this project might help their recovery after the global COVID pandemic. The STARFISH project also is actively supporting the digital transformation, a key EU priority, and accelerates the sustainable development of the Blue Economy through innovative means.

At the core of the STARFISH 4.0 there is the NEMO system: a solar-powered Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) terminal with a call for assistance button, and a fisheries

monitoring software with Big Data capabilities, that handles information gathered from large numbers of traditional vessels. In addition to that, some integrated apps have been specifically developed to support SSF fishers, such as GPS navigation maps, VMS track visualisation, real-time positioning on a sea map and the possibility to mark 'point of interest' as specific fishing zones or places to avoid. Other apps provide comprehensive catch reporting, noting species, size and where caught: this helps demonstrating to authorities, fisheries managers and export markets that the fish was not caught in illegal zones or marine protected areas. Reporting enables fishers to market their catch as 'locally sourced', offering a degree of traceability, and ensuring the characteristics of the catch handling on the vessel from a food safety perspective/cold chain integrity. Further apps are in development and will be refined according to the fisher's feedback, to include weather bulletins, marketplace information or even reporting for invasive species. [Read more](#)

EU to become a member of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission **25/02/2021**

The European Union's request to accede to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) was accepted at its sixth annual session, which closed on Thursday 25 February 2021.

Membership of the NPFC will enable EU vessels to fish in the North Pacific Ocean. In particular, EU operators that already fish further south within the area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Commission (SPRFMO) will be able to extend their operations to the NPFC Convention area, thereby increasing operational flexibility and achieving economies of scale. Significant species in the NPFC Convention Area include small pelagics such as Pacific saury, chub mackerel and Japanese sardine, as well as neon flying squid and Japanese flying squid.

The EU joins the NPFC's existing membership of Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Taiwan, United States of America, and Vanuatu. As a member, the EU will strive to

support the NPFC's work to ensure the long-term sustainable fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean. The EU will contribute its expertise in fisheries science and fisheries management, as well as bring its extensive experience of cooperation within other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) around the globe.

Euronews OCEAN Season 3 Episode 2 – Mediterranean **23/02/2021**

With the European Union stepping up efforts to address overfishing in the Mediterranean, the latest episode of Ocean visits the Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) of Jabuka/Pomo Pit, a success story in the Adriatic established to protect essential fish habitats.

Euronews joins a fishing inspection at the Jabuka/Pomo Pit, and meets fishers, inspectors and scientists who collaborated to make this bottom-up conservation effort a success. The episode also hears from Pascal Savouret, the Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency, who suggests ways to further improve the situation in the Mediterranean, as well as from fish sellers at the historic market in Split and small scale fishers at one of the Adriatic islands where the recovery of fish populations spawned a new generation of young fishermen.

Tune in to Euronews from 23 February @ 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](#).

Fighting against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing: Commission notifies Cameroon with a yellow card **17/02/2021**

The Commission, leading the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing worldwide, has issued a warning (so-called yellow card) to Cameroon that it should step up its actions against IUU fishing.

The Commission decision is based on identified shortcomings in Cameroon's ability to comply with agreed standards under international law of the sea as flag, port and market state. In particular, the country should develop a robust registration policy for fishing vessels entitled to operate under its flag, and should ensure an efficient and adequate control over fishing activities carried out by vessels flying its flag. Weak flag state control is one of the major causes of illegal fishing in an international context.

Cameroon is encouraged to take the necessary actions in order to abide by its international obligations in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The yellow card is a warning and offers Cameroon the possibility to react and take measures to rectify the situation within a reasonable time. However, in cases of prolonged and continued non-compliance, countries can ultimately face a procedure of identification (a so-called red card), which entails sanctions, including on trade of fisheries products with this country.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is jeopardising the very foundation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the EU's international efforts to promote better ocean governance. Under the [European Green Deal](#) and pursuing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, sea and marine resources, the Commission has committed to a zero-tolerance approach to IUU fishing. The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is also an important

aspect of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#)'s objective to protect the marine environment.

Background

The EU is the world's biggest importer of fisheries products. Fighting illegal fishing is part of the EU's commitment to ensure sustainable use of the sea and its resources, under the Common Fisheries Policy and under its ambition to install better international governance of our oceans. The global value of IUU fishing is estimated at 10-20 billion euros per year. Between 11 and 26 million tonnes of fish are caught illegally every year, corresponding to at least 15% of world catches. Today's Commission decision is based on the EU's '[IUU Regulation](#)', which entered into force in 2010. This key instrument in the fight against IUU fishing is the catch certification scheme that ensures that only legally caught fisheries products can access the EU market. The Regulation also provides for specific dialogue mechanisms with the countries that are not complying with their obligations as flag, coastal, port and market State under international law. While failure to cooperate in the framework of the dialogue can lead to an import ban for fisheries products (a so-called "[red card](#)"), the IUU dialogues are based on cooperation and support and are an important step in tackling IUU fishing, with trade prohibition only a last resort measure.

For More Information

[Questions and Answers on IUU fishing in general and in Cameroon](#)

[Overview of IUU procedures](#)

International Ocean Governance at the helm!

17/02/2021

International Ocean Governance (IOG) plays a crucial role in fostering healthy oceans, halting the loss of biodiversity and fighting climate change. The EU is committed to strengthening the resilience of ocean and of the societies and economies depending from them.

In 2020, the EU launched a consultation on the scope and objectives of International Ocean Governance with specific questions on the policy fields and actions under each of the

three pillars identified in the [2016 joint communication](#). A majority of respondents supported the overall objective to ensure clean, healthy, safe, secure and sustainably used oceans, while calling for adding elements such as “resilience” and climate change.

The [results of the consultation](#) are available online.

The consultation complements two major IOG events which took place in 2020 (April and December), with a series of thematic in-depth discussions that enabled stakeholders and experts to provide valuable input, in line with EU core values and actions.

The final meeting of the IOG forum will take place in April 2021. This will be the opportunity to see how to strengthen the EU’s key role for improving IOG, by shaping recommendations into concrete and ambitious actions.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

22 March 2021

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS*

*THE MEETINGS CAN BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT

AC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
CC RUP	17/03/2021	virtual	Aquaculture WG
PELAC	17/03/2021	virtual	Ecosystem FG
LDAC	18/03/2021	videoconference	WG 5
BSAC	24/03/2021	virtual	Final session on the CFP
LDAC	26/03/2021	videoconference	ExCom
MAC	26/03/2021	virtual	WG2
CC RUP	29/03/2021	virtual	ExCom
MAC	30/03/2021	virtual	WG3
MAC	31/03/2021	virtual	WG1
NSAC	13/04/2021	virtual	Demersal WG
MEDAC	15-16/04/2021	tbc	WG 1, 3, 5, FG Adriatic
PELAC	20-21/04/2021	tbc	WG 1 and 2, ExCom
BSAC	06/05/2021	virtual	ExCom meeting with EFCA
NSAC	27/05/2021	virtual	ExCom
AAC	01/06/2021	tbc	WG2
AAC	02/06/2021	tbc	WG2

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			
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	HLAVÁČEK Martin	CS	Renew
D'AMATO Rosa	IT	Greens/EFA	HRISTOV Ivo	BG	S&D
FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D	HUITEMA Jan	NL	Renew
FERREIRA João	PT	The Left	KALINOWSKI Jarosław	PL	EPP
GADE Søren Gade	DA	Renew	KELLER Ska	DE	Greens/EFA
GUERREIRO Francisco	PT	Greens/EFA	KOKKALIS Petros	EL	The Left
HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	The Left	MARKEY Colm	IE	EPP
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	YON-COURTIN Stéphanie	FR	Renew
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	ZDANOKA Tatjana	LV	Greens/EFA
TOMASIC Ruža	HR	ECR			
WIESNER Emma	SV	Renew			
ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	EL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2021

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

- Monday, 10 May, 13:45 - 15:45
- Tuesday, 25 May, 09:00 - 12:00
- Tuesday, 25 May, 13:45 - 18:45

- Wednesday, 16 June, 09:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday, 16 June, 13:45 - 15:45
- Thursday, 17 June, 09:00 - 12:00

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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