

The Trawler

TOP NEWS – NOVEMBER 2018

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Wednesday 21 November (14:30-18:30), Thursday 22 November (9:00-10:45) &

Tuesday 27 November (9:00-12:30-15:15-18:30)

in Brussels, Room PHS 5B 001

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Adoption of the report on the multi-annual plan for fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea (27/11);
- ▶ Adoption of two reports implementing ICCAT & GFCM measures (including the multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish) (21/11);
- ▶ Exchange of views with João Aguiar Machado, Director-General of DG MARE, and Pascal Savouret, Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA);
- ▶ Consideration of the draft recommendation (with resolution) on the new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements EU-Morocco, as well as adoption of an opinion to the EU-Morocco Association Agreement;
- ▶ Workshop on the impact of the discard ban and landing obligation on achieving the maximum sustainable yield in the western Mediterranean;
- ▶ Exchange of views with stakeholders on the Fisheries Control Regulation

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Agenda

Next hearing on 23 January 2019 :

The future of small-scale fisheries in the EU

Next workshop on 24 January 2019 :

'Implementation and impact of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) measures on the Common Fisheries Policy, and the proposal for the post-2020 EMFF'

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



Alain CADEC
Chair of Committee on Fisheries

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

As we are approaching the last months of this Parliament's mandate, our Committee is working hard to bring to a conclusion as many legislative files as possible. The management plan (MAP) for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic was closed in 1st Reading, the MAP for fish stocks in the Western Waters, adopted in Committee, is being negotiated with Council, and the MAP for demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean, as well as the future EMFF programme (2021-27) are to be adopted soon.

The new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Morocco also deserves our special attention: it's one of the EU's most important fisheries agreements and our fishermen operating in those waters are eager to take up their fishing operations again after the previous FPA expired in July.

In spite of the heavy workload ahead, I feel very confident that we will succeed in our task!

Happy end-of-year celebrations and best wishes for a successful New Year!

Alain CADEC

ONGOING DOSSIERS

Reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Establishing multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea COM(2018)115 2018/0050(COD) PECH/8/12491	Aguilera Garcia	COD	27/11/2018	TBC
Certain provisions fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area COM(2018)0143 - C8 - 0123/2018 2018/0069 (COD) PECH/8/12617	Engström	COD	21/11/2018	MARCH 2019
Multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish COM(2018)0229 - C8-0162/2018 2018/0109 (COD) PECH/8/12919	Affronte	COD	21/11/2018	MARCH 2019
Fisheries control COM(2018)368 - 2018/0193 (COD) PECH/8/13412	Thomas	COD	TBC	APRIL 2019
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018 2018/0210(COD) PECH/8/13776	Mato	COD	23/01/2019	APRIL I 2019
Proposal for a regulation laying down conservation and control measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation COM(2018)0577 - C8-0391/2018 2018/0304(COD) PECH/8/14451	Serrão Santos	COD	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019

NLE Reports	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session vote
Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the European Community (2018- 2024) COM(2018) 503 final 2018/0267 (NLE)	Ferreira	NLE	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the European Community (2018- 2024) 2018/0267 M - resolution		Resolution		
Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean COM(2018)0453 - 2018/0239(NLE) PECH/8/13699	Nicolai	NLE	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco 2018/0349 (NLE) PECH/8/14749 COM(2018)0678 (<i>formal referral pending</i>)	Cadec	NLE	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco 2018/0349 M (NLE) - Resolution PECH/8/14935		Resolution	23/01/2019	FEBRUARY 2019
Reports adopted in PECH awaiting 1st/2nd reading agreements	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Multi-annual plan for fish stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent waters and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, COM(2018)0149 - C8-0126/2018 2018/0074 (COD) PECH/8/12613	Cadec	COD	09/10/2018	MARCH I 2019
Conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures COM(2016)0134 final - 2016/0074(COD) PECH/8/06008	Mato	COD	21/11/2017	16/01/2018
Awaiting Parliament 2nd reading	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Plenary Session Vote
Multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks COM(2017)0097 - C8-0095/2017 2017/0043(COD) PECH/8/09349	Tomasic	COD	9/10/2018	13/11/2018

Opinions	Rapporteur	Type of procedure	PECH Committee vote	Vote Lead Committee
Discharge 2017: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) COM(2018)0521 - C8-0348/2018 2018/2197(DEC) PECH/8/14313	Blanco Lopez	DEC	23/1/2019	CONT 20/2/2019
Discharge 2017: General budget of the EU - European Commission COM(2018)0521 - C8-0318/2018 2018/2166(DEC) PECH/8/14096	Cadec	DEC	23/1/2019	CONT 20/2/2019
EC/Morocco Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement: amending Protocols 1 and 4 Accompanying procedure 2018/0256 M (NLE) PECH/8/14538	Torvalds	NLE	27/11/2018	INTA 03/12/2018

**Note on procedures:*

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

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

RESEARCH FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT 'B':

REQUESTED:

Seafood Industry Integration in the EU 2018

The European eel: reproductive biology, migration and sustainable management

PUBLISHED (SINCE 2016):

CFP and fisheries management

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

Workshop 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

Stocks

Situation of the clam (Tapes spp) fisheries sector in the EU

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

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](#)

Adriatic Sea: MEPs adopt multiannual plan for fisheries

13/11/2018

- New rules to set fishing opportunities and ensure sustainable stocks
- Preservation measures for anchovy and sardines
- Italy, Croatia and Slovenia have a direct interest in the region

New draft rules on how, where and when small pelagic fish, such as anchovy and sardine, can be caught in the Adriatic Sea were adopted on Tuesday.

The proposed multiannual plan, approved by 342 votes to 295 and 24 abstentions, would establish fishing opportunities for small species that swim near the surface of the Adriatic Sea, i.e. mainly anchovy and sardine. Catch limits of small pelagics should be fixed at 2014 levels for 2019 and reduced by 4% annually, for each member state concerned, between 2020 and 2022, Parliament agreed. However, this 4% reduction would not apply if, in a previous year, the total catches for each member state are fewer (more than 2% lower) than in 2014.

It also sets out specific no-fishing periods for the different stocks, vessels and fishing gears, with the aim of protecting nursery and spawning areas.

Financial support for businesses

MEPs also agreed to exceptionally allow fishing vessels, which may temporarily close or reduce their activities to put these new rules into effect, to apply to the

[European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#) (EMFF) and get financial support up to 15% above the existing ceiling. This derogation is valid until 31 December 2020 and for a maximum of nine months.

Evaluation after 3 years

The Commission should evaluate the impact of the multiannual plan on the stocks three years after its entry into force and propose, if necessary, changes to the regulation.

Next steps

The text sets out Parliament's mandate to start negotiations with EU Ministers on the final shape of the legislation. Talks can start once Council has agreed on its position.

Background

The vast majority of small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic target anchovy and sardine. All pelagic fisheries in that area are valued around 74 million euros (2013). Nearly all anchovy and sardine fisheries are from Italy and Croatia, with some boats from Slovenia, Albania and Montenegro.

Two multiannual plans under the new CFP have already been approved by the European Parliament and the Council: the [Baltic Sea plan](#) adopted in 2016 and the [North Sea plan](#) adopted in 2018.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[News - Press service](#)

EU signs Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement with Guinea Bissau

16/11/2018

On 15 November, the EU and Guinea Bissau signed a new Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement (SFPA) protocol, a year after the previous protocol expired.

This new fisheries protocol will allow the EU fleet to fish in Guinea Bissau waters for a duration of 5 years. Around 50 EU vessels targeting demersal fisheries (including cephalopods and crustaceans) as well as tuna and small pelagic species will benefit from the agreement. In return, the EU will pay Guinea Bissau a financial contribution of 15.6 Mio € per year, an increase from the 9.2 Mio € foreseen under the previous protocol. Part of the EU-funding will target the development of a sustainable fisheries sector in Guinea Bissau. In addition, EU ship owners will contribute around 4 Mio € per year.

The protocol foresees the transition from the current system based on vessel capacity to a system based on catch limits (TAC), applicable for the last three years of the agreement. The EU believes this is very positive as it reinforces

the transparency and sustainability of the fishing activity. The catch limits are 1,500 t for cephalopods, 2,500 t for crustaceans, 11,000 t for demersals and 18,000 t for small pelagics. The protocol also includes improved monitoring, thanks to the introduction of an Electronic Reporting System (ERS), which will become mandatory from the third year on. The quantities agreed upon are fully in line with scientific advice and management plans adopted by Guinea Bissau.

The new protocol will enter into force when the necessary legislative procedures for its conclusion have been completed.

North-East Atlantic coastal states reach agreement on blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring

12/11/2018

Last week, in London, delegations of the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Norway and Iceland, with the participation of Greenland as observer, reached an agreement on the management measures for 2019 for blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring.

North-East Atlantic coastal states agreed that, in 2019, the total catches of blue whiting should not exceed 1,143,629 tonnes and that the total catch level for Atlanto-Scandian herring should not be more than 588,562 tonnes. The catch limits are based on the long-term management strategy jointly agreed by the coastal states and are in line with the scientific advice received from the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The parties may fish their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.

Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2019

7/11/2018

The European Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and the North Sea for **89 stocks**: for 62 stocks the fishing quota is either increased or remains the same, for 22 stocks is reduced and for 5 the Commission proposes new by-catch quotas at low level to reduce the fishing pressure. The fishing

opportunities, or Total Allowable Catches (TACs), are quotas set for most commercial fish stocks that keep the stocks healthy, while allowing the fishing industry to profit from fishing the highest amount of fish. As the size of some key fish stocks is increasing – notably for Norway lobster in Skagerrak/Kattegat, Northern hake and Southern horse mackerel – so is the profitability of the fishing sector, with an estimated EUR 1.4 billion profit for 2018.

In order to put an end to the wasteful practice of discarding fish, as of 1st January 2019, the [landing obligation](#) will apply fully to all EU fishing fleets. This means that all catches of regulated commercial species taken on-board (including by-catch) are **to be landed and counted** against each Member States' respective quotas. In today's proposal the Commission has already deducted the amounts corresponding to the agreed exemptions to the landing obligation from the advised catches.

Substantial progress can be observed in the EU with regards to sustainable fishing: 53 stocks are now fished at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) levels compared to only 5 in 2009 and 44 in 2017. This means that the fishing pressure on the stock is limited to a level that will allow a healthy future for the fish stock's biomass, while taking into account socioeconomic factors. The Commission is working with Member States to support the fishermen in reaching the objective of having all stocks fished at sustainable levels by 2020, as set by the [Common Fisheries Policy](#).

Proposal will be submitted for discussion and decision by the Member States at the December Fisheries Council on 17-18 December in Brussels, to be applied as of 1 January 2019.

Details of the proposal

The Commission bases its proposal on scientific advice provided by the [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#), with a view to achieving sustainable management of fish stocks while sustaining profitable livelihoods for fishermen.

The proposal covers stocks managed by the EU alone and stocks managed in cooperation with third countries, such as Norway, or through [Regional Fisheries Management Organisations \(RFMOs\)](#). International negotiations for many of the stocks concerned are still ongoing and

some further stocks are awaiting scientific advice. For these, the figures will be included at a later stage.

Proposed increases: For 27 stocks such as **Norway lobster** and **plaice** in Skagerrak/Kattegat, the **Northern hake** stock, **Western** and **Southern horse mackerel**, **cod**, **sole** and **plaice** in the Irish Sea, and **sole** and **megrim** in the Bay of Biscay, the Commission proposes to increase the Total Allowable Catch.

Proposed stocks to be fished at 2018 levels: 35 stocks are kept at the same level as last year.

Proposed decreases: Decreases are proposed for 22 stocks, of which 12 see a decrease of less than 20%. For 5 of the stocks, namely cod in the West of Scotland and cod in the Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay/Iberian Waters, whiting in the West of Scotland and in the Irish Sea, and plaice in the southern Celtic Sea and southwest of Ireland, scientists have advised setting a zero quota (Total Allowable Catch) in 2019. The Commission is thus proposing to no longer allow targeting these stocks.

Proposed new by-catch levels: For 5 stocks captured incidentally, a by-catch quota is proposed at low level to reduce the fishing pressure, subject to a number of conditions, including full catch documentation. These stocks are caught in mixed whitefish fisheries.

For northern seabass: the Commission is proposing a set of measures, expressed in catch limits (not TACs), following the [latest scientific advice](#). Those measures would allow higher catches for hooks and lines fishery with 7 tonnes/vessel (compared to 5 tonnes/vessel in 2018) and a "bag limit" for recreational fisheries of 1 fish/day for 7 months, increasing from only three months in 2018.

[LINK](#) for more information

An unsuspected economic engine: Marine Protected Areas

05/11/2018

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are set to cover more of the maritime space. Both the UN and the EU require that countries set aside sufficient areas of their seas for biodiversity conservation.

But is this yet another cost for people making a living from the sea? Quite the contrary. A

brand-new Commission study finds that marine protected areas can generate unforeseen, but tangible economic benefits.

Even though scientific evidence is scarce, anecdotal evidence is abundant, including statements by blue businesses themselves. It all points to a profusion of new jobs and new business opportunities around MPAs.

Fisheries and tourism are indeed rich with such positive examples – and with success stories, in fact, which hinge on the very existence of the local protected area to begin with. But the study also found examples of business benefits for sectors like aquaculture, blue biotechnology and even passenger shipping. Not to mention, of course, the jobs generated by the MPA itself: for its daily management, for scientific monitoring and for consulting with engineering companies to restore coastal and marine habitats.

Through ten case studies, the new study reveals a wide spectrum of benefits for the local economic operators and communities, sometimes backed up by precise econometric data. What's more, it uncovers practical real-life 'tips and tricks' on how to enforce, how to fund and how to govern an MPA and really make it work for itself and for the community. Funded by the European Commission, the new study on "[Economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas and Spatial Protection Measures](#)", provides valuable lessons and ideas for anyone involved in MPAs and will undoubtedly raise awareness and acceptance of marine protected areas.

Fish and aquatic plants: food and so much more – EUMOFA study

31/10/2018

Over 50% of any fish caught or farmed is not consumed directly. In the case of tuna, as much as 70% of the animal ends up as waste or by-product.

Traditionally, the rest goes into production of fish oil, fishmeal, animal feed, pet food or fertilizer. According to new study from EUMOFA, the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products, there is more to gain from the aquatic biomass. As nutritional and pharmaceutical ingredients or cosmetic products, fish by-products and algae

can generate high added value, and boost the blue bioeconomy.

The [EUMOFA study](#) looks into the value and activities comprising the EU bioeconomy. It offers an overview of the types of investments underpinning the sector, the size of demand and main players involved, future requirements, as well as public policies promoting the biotech sector.

From waste to value added

The study notes that the amounts of biomass available from each type of resource varies widely. As a rule of thumb, more than 50% of any finfish does not directly enter the human food chain. White fish such as cod may generate almost 60% waste, ocean fish such as tuna as much as 70%. For shellfish such as scallops, wastes are as high as 88% of catches and harvests. Exceptions might include cephalopods (c. 65% of cuttlefish is edible) and “reduction fish”, of which 100% is used for fishmeal and fish oils.

Algae and other aquatic plants have also considerable development potential. The study shows an increasing number of SMEs developing high added value products from macro- and microalgae. However, EU algae production is still very small compared with the rest of the world, and the vast majority of the supply is therefore imported.

The study identifies the opportunities and challenges to create products, such as novel foods and food additives, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, materials (e.g. clothes and construction materials) and energy. High value added ingredients found in algae or seafood are, for example, omega-3 fatty acids, collagen, chitin, gelatin, minerals, carotenoids, enzymes, amino-acids, etc.

Very often, the cost of development is high and the time to market long. Investing in R&D and innovation to make good use of seafood resources requires significant financial resources. Nevertheless, the study confirms that this new stream of the blue bioeconomy can bring a new impetus for long-term economic growth and employment.

Background

The study “*Blue bioeconomy: situation report and perspectives*” will be carried out by EUMOFA every second year, providing updates and insights on the sector’s most

recent developments within the European Union.

Read the full [STUDY](#)

42nd annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean: Milestones for the Mediterranean and Black Seas

30/10/2018

The 42nd annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) drew to a successful close on October 26th.

The decisions adopted in Rome are concrete deliveries of political pledges secured under the Malta “MedFish4ever” Declaration, the Sofia Declaration for the Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the GFCM 2017-2020 strategy. The newly adopted measures will help improve the state of fish stocks and the economic prospects in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins. This achievement proves that committed regional cooperation can significantly contribute to the urgent goals of bringing the stocks to a sustainable level and ensuring a viable future for the sector.

The forty-second session of the GFCM concluded its work on Friday, in Rome, after a week of intensive discussions. The GFCM adopted a set of ambitious measures, following the work of the European Commission, the Member States and the remarkable multilateral cooperation established with all riparian countries. As many as 11 decisions were adopted, all of them initiated by the EU, some of them jointly with other Contracting Parties. These decisions reinforce the recovery of fish stocks, as well as the fight against IUU in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Particularly notable progress has been made in ensuring that a maximum of key fisheries is managed under multi-annual plans. Thus, the GFCM adopted multiannual plans for the European eel, the giant red shrimp and the blue and red shrimp in the Ionian and in the Levant Seas. The latter two plans also set up a comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance programme, following successful implementation of similar programmes in the Strait of Sicily and Black Sea. Conservation and management measures were also adopted

for the small pelagic in the Adriatic Sea, for Rapa whelk in the Black Sea, for Blue Crab in the Mediterranean, as well as for Sharks and Rays. The consolidated management measures for the Strait of Sicily as well as the decisions on the marking of fishing gears and on access to information for the contracting Parties engaged in joint inspection schemes will further reinforce control and fight against IUU fishing.

The resolve shown in Rome is a significant step towards reverting the alarming status of the stocks, boosting blue growth and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the region in line with the objectives of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, the Malta "MedFish4ever" and Sofia Declarations, the Ministerial Declaration adopting a [Regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries](#) and the [GFCM 2017-2020 mid-term Strategy](#).

The EU confirmed that it will continue to support the efforts of the third countries in strengthening their capacity building, namely through its Neighbourhood Policy. The EU will also continue to support the ongoing cooperation between Algeria, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia in implementing control, monitoring and surveillance measures in the Strait of Sicily. Moreover, a Pilot Project for reinforcing integrated monitoring and control measures in the Black Sea will be launched. Both measures will be coordinated by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The GFCM also agreed to organise two high-level events in June 2019: a follow-up to the MedFish4Ever Declaration to assess progress made since 2017; as well as a Conference on social development, employment and decent work in small-scale fisheries, which reflects a commitment of the recently adopted Regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the region. Still this year, on 10-14 December 2018, the [Scientific Forum on Fisheries Science](#) will bring together the community of scientists with the aim to build a network, discuss advancements, integrate scientific knowledge in support of decision-making processes and identify research priorities for the coming decade.

Black Sea: Commission proposes sustainable fishing opportunities for 2019

24/10/2018

Today, the Commission has adopted a proposal on fishing opportunities in 2019 for the commercially most important fish stocks in the Black Sea. The catch limit and quota for the two species, sprat and turbot, are shared between Bulgaria and Romania.

The proposal is a roll-over from 2018 and is based on the scientific advice from the [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\)](#). It follows the multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea, approved in 2017 by the [General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#).

For turbot, the Commission transposes the GFCM multiannual management plan by proposing a catch limit of 114 tonnes, which will be distributed equally between Bulgaria and Romania, as well as a limitation of turbot fishing to 180 days per year and the complete ban over a 2-month period (15 April - 15 June). These measures should allow for the recovery of this iconic Black Sea species.

For sprat, the Commission proposes to maintain a catch limit of 11,475 tonnes, of which 70% will be allocated to Bulgaria and 30% to Romania.

The Commission's proposal will be examined by the Member States at the December Council on Agriculture and Fisheries (17-18 December).

Background

The Commission promotes an enhanced multilateral approach and cooperation to fisheries management in the Black Sea. A new fisheries governance is established following the adoption of the GFCM multiannual management plan for turbot, the GFCM Regional Plan of Action against Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), and the [Sofia Ministerial Declaration](#). Moreover, riparian countries are closely working on the implementation of the GFCM 'BlackSea4Fish' project for regional cooperation on research and data collection.

The 41st GFCM session, in 2017, opened a new era of cooperative fisheries management in the Black Sea, building on the [Bucharest](#)

Declaration and the Malta MedFish4ever Declaration.

For the first time, management and control measures for turbot were set to be implemented at regional level. Their effective application is enforced through an international joint control and inspection pilot project. Established with the assistance of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), it contributes to the fight against IUU fishing in the basin. The Commission also promotes training workshops for non-EU inspectors through the EFCA.

More information

Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the Black Sea

EU signs Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement with The Republic of The Gambia

22/10/2018

Last Friday, the EU and The Republic of The Gambia signed a new Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement (SFPA) protocol, 22 years after the previous protocol expired. Both parties welcome the start of a new cooperation period in the fisheries sector.

This fisheries agreement allows EU vessels to fish in the Gambian waters and thus, extends the network of tuna fisheries agreements in West Africa.

The new protocol covers a period of 6 years and will offer EU vessels the possibility to fish 3300 tons of tuna and tuna-like species as well as 750 tons of hake per year in the Gambian waters. In return, the EU will pay The Republic of The Gambia a financial contribution of 550 000 € per year. Half of this yearly contribution will be used to strengthen the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the development of the Gambian fishing sector. The agreement covers the cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and the promotion of the blue economy, including aquaculture. A special support will be given to the artisanal fisheries sector. Furthermore, Gambia has committed to become a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The new protocol will enter into force when the necessary legislative procedures for its conclusion have been completed.

EU and the Republic of Korea join forces in fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

18/10/2018

The EU and the Republic of Korea have pledged to work closely together to fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing with a joint statement signed by European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, and Mr Kim Young-Choon, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea. The signing took place on the eve of a bilateral EU-Republic of Korea Summit.

With the new partnership, in line with the objectives of the EU's Ocean Governance strategy, the EU and the Republic of Korea will:

- exchange information about suspected IUU-activities
- enhance global traceability of fishery products threatened by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, through a risk-based, electronic catch documentation and certification system
- join forces in supporting developing states in the fight against IUU fishing and the promotion of sustainable fishing through education and training
- strengthen cooperation in international fora, including regional fisheries management organisations.

The Republic of Korea and the European Union have been working closely together on IUU fishing for several years already. The Republic of Korea is the fourth country with whom the EU signs a joint statement on IUU fishing, following the USA, Japan and Canada. Together, these five economies imported almost 90 billion euros worth of fish and fisheries products in 2017.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing constitutes one of the most serious threats to sustainable fishing and to marine biodiversity in the world's oceans, with devastating environmental and socio-economic consequences. These consequences are

particularly challenging for coastal communities in developing countries, who rely on fisheries for food and employment. Globally, IUU fishing is estimated to deprive coastal communities and honest fishermen of up to 20 billion euros of seafood and seafood products per year.

Background

The EU is internationally recognised for its leadership in the fight against IUU fishing. Under EU legislation, only fish that is legally caught can be sold on the EU market – the biggest market for fish and fisheries products in the world. Countries for which there is concern about IUU fishing receive a 'yellow card'. This starts a process of dialogue and support to find solutions and ensure that international law is fully applied. This can either lead to the repeal of the yellow card or it can turn into a 'red card', which would mean the banning of the products from the EU market.

In April 2015, the Commission lifted the yellow card adopted in 2013 to the Republic of Korea, recognising the country's efforts to bring its legal and administrative systems in line with the international standards. Since then, the Commission and the authorities of the Republic of Korea have continued their fruitful cooperation in a bilateral working group to address IUU fishing.

EU renews Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement with Cape Verde

15/10/2018

Last Friday, the EU and Cape Verde agreed to renew the current Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreement (SFPA) protocol, which expires at the end of the year. The outcome of the negotiations is a balanced deal, profitable to both parties.

This fisheries agreement allows EU vessels from Spain, Portugal and France to fish in Cape Verdean waters and is part of the tuna network fisheries agreements in West Africa.

The new agreement covers a period of 5 years and will offer EU vessels the possibility to fish 8000 tons of tuna and tuna-like species in Cape Verdean waters. In return, the EU will pay Cape Verde a financial contribution of 750 000€ per year. Part of this yearly contribution

(350 000€) will be used to promote the sustainable management of fisheries in Cape Verde. This will be done through reinforcement of control and surveillance capacities (including strict shark monitoring), and support of the local fishing communities. Provisions regarding cooperation between economic operators and in the field of blue economy have also been introduced.

The new protocol will enter into force when the necessary legislative procedures for its conclusion have been completed.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council 15-16/10/2018

Baltic Sea: Council decides on how much can be fished in 2019

15/10/2018

On 15 October 2018 the Council agreed on next year's **total allowable catches** (TACs) and member states' quotas **for the ten commercially most important fish stocks in the Baltic Sea**.

The Council decided to increase fishing opportunities for **plaice (+43%)**, **sprat (+3%)**, **Western cod (+70%)**, and **herring** in the Gulf of **Riga (+7%)**. The Council also rolled-over the TACs for **main basin salmon**, and decided to decrease the future amounts to be fished for **Central herring (-26%)**, **Bothnian herring (-7%)**, **Western herring (-48%)**, **Eastern cod (-15%)**, and **salmon in the Gulf of Finland (-3%)**.

Thanks to this agreement, 7 out of 8 stocks for which complete scientific advice was available will be fished in line with the principle of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), covering 98% of fish landings in volume.

The agreement in detail

Based on a Commission proposal, the agreed quantities take into account the commitment to meeting the objectives of the **Common Fisheries Policy** (CFP), including the **achievement of MSY**, as well as **scientific advice** provided in particular by the International Council for the Exploration of the

Sea (ICES). The provisions of the **multiannual management plan for the Baltic sea** have also been closely followed.

In addition to setting TACs and national quotas on some species, the Council confirmed the extension to 2019 of some **management measures currently in place** to improve the state of the stock **Baltic cod** (bag limitations in **recreational fisheries for the Western cod** and closure period from 1 to 31 July, with derogations for small coastal fisheries for the Eastern cod).

In the context of discussions on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea, the Council also:

- introduced an inter-area flexibility for **salmon** from subdivisions 22-31 (main basin) to 32 (Gulf of Finland) for those member states requesting it, together with measures to address misreporting of catches

- fixed the EU quota for **Norway pout** for the next fishing season running from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019 to 50 000 tonnes, thereby guaranteeing continuity in the fisheries of this short lived species

- agreed on an in-year amendment to the TAC for **anchovy** and the modification of the TAC period that will now last until 30 June 2019

Preparatory work conducive to finding swift agreement was carried out at regional level through **BALTFISH**, a body providing a platform for discussion on important fisheries issues in the Baltic Sea, currently under Swedish chairmanship.

[Council agreement on 2018 catch limits in the Baltic Sea](#)

MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

RAC	DATE	PLACE	TYPE
SWW AC	27/11/2018	Santiago de Compostela	ExCom
ICES	27-30/11/2018	Copenhagen	Advisory Committee
LDAC	3/12/2018	Madrid	ExCom
LDAC, NS AC	4/12/2018	Madrid	Joint Advisory Council Meeting on Post Brexit Functioning of ACs
MED AC	10/12/2018	Rome	EC draft revision Control Regulation and new EMFF, state of art of the MAP small pelagic in Adriatic Sea and Recommendations approved by the GFCM

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](#))
- MIRAC: ICES/AC meeting ([link](#))
- **GA**: General Assembly, **ExCom**: Executive Committee, **WG**: Working Group, **FG**: Focus Group

MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NORWAY/FAROE ISLANDS/COASTAL STATES/NEAFC

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
November 2018			
26-30 Nov	EU-Norway	Consultations on Fisheries Arrangements for 2019	Bergen, Norway
December 2018			
10-12 Dec	EU-Faroe Islands	Consultation on fisheries arrangements for 2019	Brussels

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Date	Organisation	Type of meeting	Venue
December 2018			
9 - 14 Dec	Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	15th Regular Session of the WCPFC	Honolulu, Hawaii

FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

COUNTRY	EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	Financial Value	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) (2018-2019)		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2018-2019		LEGAL PROCESS			COMMENTS
			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 2019	59 125 000 €	December 2018 (tbc)	Nouakchott		Q1/2019	Q1/2019		The last JCM took place in September 2017. Joint Scientific Meeting will be held Sept 2018
	Morocco	14 July 2018	30 million €						Q1/2019	New Agreement and Protocol initialled on 24 July 2018. No provisional application foreseen
	Senegal	19-Nov-19	1 738 000 (3rd year)		Brussels	Q1/2019	-	-	-	the last scientific meeting took place in July 2018, last JCM took place 18-19 October 2018
	Gambia								Q1/2019	New protocol paraphed 19 October 2018
	Guinea Bissau	23 November 2017	9 200 000 EUR			November 2018 tbc	Bissau		Q1/2019	A negotiation round took place 8-9 October 2018
	Greenland	31 December 2020	16 099 978 €, plus 1 700 000 € financial reserve for additional species.	19-21 November 2018	Brussels					Last joint Committee took place on 11-13 July 2018.
WEST AFRICA	Cape Verde	22 December 2018	550 000 € (years 1+2); 500 000 € (years 3+4)						TBD (depends on the outcome of negotiations)	Negotiations concluded on 12 October 2018 ; new protocol initialled
	Côte d'Ivoire	30 June 2018 (OLD) 31 Jul 2024 (NEW)	680 000 € 682 000 €	27-28 November 2018	Abidjan					New Protocol signed and provisionally applied on 1st August 2018.
	Gabon	Dormant since July 2016	1 350 000 €				Libreville			Resuming of negotiation pending political situation.
	Ghana	No Agreement/Protocol				TBD	TBD			The ex-ante evaluation was conducted end of 2016 and mandate adopted on March 2017.
	Liberia	8 December 2020	715 000 € (1st year); 650 000 € (2nd, 3rd and 4th years); 585 000 € (5th year)	2019	Brussels				Signed on 09/12/2016	The Protocol was signed and entered into provisional application on 9/12/2015.
	Equatorial Guinea	N.A.	N.A.							The ex-ante evaluation was approved on the end of November 2016.
	São Tomé and Príncipe	23/05/2018	710000 € (675000 en fin d'application)							Negotiations 1st round in January 2018. 2nd round in April 2018 and 3rd round in July. Next round to be fixed.

COUNTRY		EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT PROTOCOL	Financial Value	NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) (2018-2019)		NEGOTIATIONS SESSIONS FORECAST 2018-2019		LEGAL PROCESS			COMMENTS
				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	
INDIAN OCEAN	Comoros	<i>Dormant since December 2016</i>									The termination of the SFPA with Comoros has been notified to the Government of Comoros on 03/07/2018.
	Madagascar	31 December 2018	1 566 250 € (2015 & 2016) 1 487 500 € (2017 & 2018)			23-26 October 2018	Antananarivo			TBD(depends on the outcome of negotiations)	The current 4-year Protocol expires on 31/12/2018. The evaluation study has been concluded (March 2018) and sent to Council, EP and Madagascar. 1st round of negotiations took place in July 2018. Next round to be fixed.
	Mauritius		575 000 €	SPRING 2019	tbc						New 4 year protocol signed 8/12/2017 1st JCM held 28/02-01-03 Port Louis
	Mozambique	<i>No protocol in force</i>	980 000 €			tbd	tbd				Negotiations for a new Protocol suspended until further notice to enable further reflection by both Parties to narrow divergences. Last Joint Committee Meeting in February 2016. Possible resuming of negotiation to be confirmed
	Seychelles	17 January 2020	5 350 000 €	End 2018/ Begin 2019	SEY				Q2/2019		Last JCM took place in February 2018.
	Mayotte (Access agreement)	19/05/2020			SEY			/	Q1/2019		<i>no financial implications for the EU; as access agreement for Seychelles flagged vessels to EU waters</i>
	Tanzania	<i>No Agreement/Protocol</i>				tbc	(TBC)		Adopted on 16 June 2015		This would be a new agreement. A first technical meeting took place in Dar-Es-Salaam 4-6 July 2016. Tanzania did not officially inform COM (partially due to a complex institutional setting) and information available point to various directions but there seems to be an interest in discussing an SFPA with the EU. Date of first round pending confirmation.
	Kenya	<i>No Agreement/Protocol</i>				tbc	(TBC)				This will be a new Agreement. A technical meeting took place 20-21 January 2015. Confirmation of interest by Kenya on 21/03/2016, but date to start negotiation not agreed upon yet.
PACIFIC	Cook Islands	13/10/2020	717 500 €	End 2018 or early 2019	TBD						The current 4-year Protocol is in force since 14/10/2016. Currently the only SFPA in the Pacific.
	Kiribati	15/09/2015				Autumn 2018	TBD				No Protocol in force, which expired on 15/09/2015. 3 rounds of negotiations took place the last in November 2017.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

BUREAU			
Chair	Mr Alain CADEC		
1st Vice-Chair	Ms Linnéa ENGSTRÖM	3rd Vice-Chair	Mr Werner KUHN
2nd Vice-Chair	Mr Jarosław Leszek WAŁĘSA	4th Vice-Chair	Ms Renata BRIANO

COORDINATORS			
EPP	MATO ADROVER Gabriel	ECR	VAN DALEN Peter
S&D	SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	GUE/NGL	FERREIRA João
ALDE	MARINHO E PINTO António	EFDD	HOOKEM Mike
Greens/EFA	ENGSTRÖM Linnéa	ENF	--

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES FULL MEMBERS			SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
AFFRONTE Marco	IT	Greens/EFA	BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	ES	ALDE
AGUILERA GARCÍA Clara Eugenia	ES	S&D	BLANCO LÓPEZ José	ES	S&D
BRIANO Renata	IT	S&D	CAPUTO Nicola	IT	S&D
CADEC Alain	FR	EPP	CHRISTENSEN Ole	DK	S&D
COBURN David	GB	EFDD	D'AMATO Rosa	IT	EFDD
CORBETT Richard	GB	S&D	ERDOS Norbert	HU	EPP
DODDS Diane	GB	NI	FERRANDINO Giuseppe	IT	S&D
ENGSTRÖM Linnéa	SE	Greens/EFA	FLACK John	GB	ECR
FERREIRA João	PT	GUE/NGL	GARDINI Elisabetta	IT	EPP
GODDYN Sylvie	FR	EFDD	GIESEKE Jens	DE	EPP
HOOKEM Mike	GB	EFDD	HAZEKAMP Anja	NL	GUE/NGL
HUDGHTON Ian	GB	Greens/EFA	HEUBUCH Maria	DE	Greens/EFA
ITURGAIZ Carlos	ES	EPP	HOC Czesław	PL	ECR
KUHN Werner	DE	EPP	JADOT Yannick	FR	Greens/EFA
MARINHO E PINTO António	PT	ALDE	KELLY Séan	IE	EPP
MATERA Barbara	IT	PPE	LOPE FONTAGNÉ Verónica	ES	EPP
MATO ADROVER Gabriel	ES	EPP	MCAVAN Linda	GB	S&D
NI RIADA Liadh	IE	GUE/NGL	MILLÁN MON Francisco José	ES	EPP
NICOLAI Norica	RO	ALDE	MIRANDA Ana	ES	Greens/EFA
RODUST Ulrike	DE	S&D	MOBARIK Nosheena Baroness	GB	ECR
SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	NL	EPP	MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	PT	EPP
SERNAGIOTTO Remo	IT	ECR	PAKSAS Rolandas	LT	EFDD
SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	PT	S&D	SÂRBU Daciana Octavia	RO	S&D
THOMAS Isabelle	FR	S&D	SENRA RODRÍGUEZ María Lidia	ES	GUE/NGL
TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	HR	ECR	TORVALDS Nils	FI	ALDE
VAN DALEN Peter	NL	ECR			
WAŁĘSA Jarosław Leszek	PL	EPP			

NEXT FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2019

- Wednesday, 23 January, 9:00-12:30 - 14:30-18:30
- Thursday, 24 January, 9:00-12:30
- Tuesday, 19 February, 9:00-12:30 - 14:30-18:30
- Monday, 8 April, 15:00-18:30

USEFUL LINKS

- @ EP Committee on Fisheries [link](#)
- @ DG MARE (European Commission) [link](#)
- @ Austrian Presidency of the Council [link](#) (2nd half of 2018)
- @ Romanian Presidency of the Council [link](#) (1st half of 2019)
- @ FAO Fishery and Aquaculture [link](#)
- @ ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea [link](#)